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### King issues directive on motorcade procedures

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Abdullah has instructed the Public Security Department (PSD) not to halt traffic to give way for his motorcade, according to a report in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i on Friday. The King said traffic should function normally and that his motorcade should abide by traffic rules like other vehicles. The late King Hussein had passed the same directives to the PSD.



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AMMAN SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1999, DHUL QADAH 4, 1419

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#### More rain expected today

AMMAN (J.T.) - The Meteorology Department Friday said rainfall is expected to contime today with partly cloudy conditions and cold weather. Daytime temperatures will reach a high of 10 degrees Celsius, dropping to a low of four at night in the eastern and western heights, from 13 to three in the Badia, from 17 to none in the Jordan Valley and from 18 to nine in Aqaba, according to the department.

#### 'Demonic' twins escape death

BOGOTA (AFP) — Newborn twins from the U'wa tribe who risked being sacrificed by their tribe because of a belief that twins are demonic have been placed in the care of social workers, officials said Friday. The babies owe their lives to the fact that they were born in a clinic and were immediately placed in the care of officials, according to Juan Manuel Urrutia, director of the Colombian institute for family wellbeing. According to U'wa traditions, twins are regarded as evil and have to be put to death in order to protect the community from punishment by the gods. Ordinarily babies such as these are either drowned in a river or left to be eaten by anis, Oscar Tarazona, an expert on the U'wa Indians said.

#### Communist symbols draw wrath of community

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - A Vietnamese man whose store is under siege by anti-Communist protesters demanded police protection Friday so that he might return to his business to display Communist symbols. The police say they will arrest me. That's my store. I have the right to go to my store," said Truong Van Tran, invoking his free-speech rights to hang the poster of Communist leader Ho Chi Minh and the Vietnamese flag. He made his remarks from the safety of the Los Angeles offices of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) offices after he twice tried to return to his store but was met by an angry mob. He has also

#### 14 die in Kashmir on eve of summit

received death threats.

SRINAGAR (R) — At least 14 people were killed in clashes in the troubled Kashmir Valley on Friday, the eve of a two-day summit between leaders of arch-rivals India and Pakistan. Indian detence and police officials said four soldiers, four policemen and two militants were killed in a clash near Sahdipora village, 40 kilometres north of Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir state. "The exchange of fire continues, further details are awaited," a defence official told Reuters, adding that five houses caught fire in the exchange of fire and were gut-

#### UNITA leader to be tried for war crimes

LUANDA (AFP) --- Angola's highest court on Friday decided to my National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) leader Jonus Savimbi for war crimes. Attorney General Domingos Kulolo told reporters that Savimbi, branded a war criminal by the Angolan parliament in January, must answer several charges. The civil war in Angola resumed last November after Savimbi's forces failed to comply with a 1994 peace agreement calling for the disarmament of his UNITA and the handing over of dozens of cities and towns to the central admin-istration.

## Delegation leaves for S. Arabia today to discuss economic ties

By Ghadeer Taher

AMMAN - A top-level team leaves for Saudi Arabia today to discuss expanding trade and consolidating economic relations with Rivadh following pledges of support by the Saudi government.

Following the death of King Hussein, many countries have reached out to Jordan with promises of financial aid to help steer the Kingdom through upcoming chal-

Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states have said they were ready to help the Kingdom after the longest reigning Monarch in the Middle East lost a battle with lymphatic cancer Feb. 7 at the age of 63.

"The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was and will continue to stand by Jordan with all its potential and capabilities... The kingdom will stand by you strongly and steadily in good and bad times," Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah, who attended the King's funeral, was quoted as saying. Economic troubles have in

the past been the spark for unrest in Jordan's poorest areas, and an acute recession coupled with a heavy debt burden will continue to be the biggest challenge for His Majesty King Abdullah and the government.

King Abdullah, who assumed the reigns of power on Feb. 7, has to grapple with a recession-hit economy, disenchantment with peace with Israel, and the continuous quagmire in Iraq, as well as domestic calls for political

"We are going to Saudi Arabia to discuss means to develop an institutional framework for a long-term relationship," said Finance

Minister Michel Marto. The delegation, which will hold two days of talks, will also include Minister of State for Development Affairs Taher Kanaan, Planning Minister Nabil Ammari and Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh's Economic Advisor Bassem

Awadallah. "We will discuss means to reactivate institutional funds, expand bilateral trade, and encourage Saudi investments in Jordan," Marto told the Jordan Times. "We will discuss possible joint projects."

Jordan is keen to see a resumption of its agricultural exports to the largest economy in the Gulf and further opening up of the Saudi labour market to its workers, who are a main source of remittances.

"We are not looking for a single shot-in-the-arm cash payment... those days are long gone and we cannot return to the pre-Gulf crisis era," said another official. Today the situation is different for Jordan and Saudi Arabia, which is dealing with its own economic problems with the drop in oil prices," said

Jordan's access to the Saudi Development Fund, which dispersed millions of dollars in soft loans to the country in the 1980s, has been frozen since the 1990 Gulf crisis, when Amman was perceived to support Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Government officials did not reveal the amount of Jordan's debt to Saudi Arabia. However, economist Fahed

Fanek said the Kingdom owed the Saudi government \$45 million. Riyadh had given assistance to the Kingdom mostly in the form of grants before the crisis. Jordan also owes the Saudi Development Bank, the govemment's lending arm, \$125 million.

It is not clear how much Jordan owes Saudi Arabia for its share of maintenance costs for the Saudi oil pipeline, Tapline. Amman had paid \$1 million monthly when the pipeline was operational. Saudi Arabia suspended oil supplies to Jordan in 1990.

Eight years on, Jordan and the Gulf states have reconciled politically, but their economic relationship has not developed at a commensurate

Trade in the first eight months of 1998 stood at JD136,533 million, according to figures released by the Central Bank of Jordan.

But officials are optimistic that Saudi Arabia and Jordan's other friends in the region and abroad, anxious to see a smooth transition to King Abdullah's rule, will help the country politically and economically.

"Jordan has a key role to play in the region, given its moderating and balanced position," said an observer. "Apart from the international respect enjoyed by the late King, the show of support expressed to Jordan's new Monarch reflects the importance the world community places on Jordan's stability."

Saudi sources have said that after putting his house in order, King Abdullah will make Saudi Arabia his first stop on a tour of the Arab World to show his appreciation for the overwhelming Jordan's other friends lined

up to offer economic assistance for the country, seen as a linchpin in the Middle East peace process.

The United States has pledged \$300 million in aid to

the Kingdom, which has been promised as part of the Wye River accords. This is in addition to \$225 million allocated to Jordan as part of the annual foreign aid for both economic and military purposes.

U.S. President Bill Clinton said his country would also support a substantial rescheduling of Jordan's debt to the Paris Club of creditor nations. The Kingdom's debt stands at \$6.8 billion or 91 per cent of gross domestic product.

On Thursday Jordan and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed on the main features of a new threeyear reform programme. which will be underpinned by a new three-year extended fund facility. Without a clean bill of health from the IMF. Jordan would not be able to reschedule its debts or seek hoped for write-offs and additional loans from creditor nations.

Banking sources have said the United Arab Emirates will make a \$150 million deposit in the Central Bank of Jordan to help shore up the bank's reserves. The Arab Monetary Fund may also make a similar deposit of \$100 million. Saudi Arabia has a major say in the fund's dispersal decisions.

Taming expectations of a flood of incoming funds. Prime Minister Tarawneh. addressing lawmakers Wednesday, said recent pledges by Arab countries and other allies have not translated into tangible figures. Some lawmakers and economists have cautioned against pinning too much hone on the promised aid actually coming through, and have urged further restructuring of the economy and pushing ahead with opening markets for Jordanian exports.



Lebanese villagers cry and wave as they stand Friday behind Israeli mines and barbed wire at the entrance to their village of Arnoun in south Lebanon (Reuters photo)

## Lebanese protest against Israeli takeover of southern village

KAFR TIBNEET (R) — Lebanese government representatives joined residents of Amoun on Friday in a protest against Israel's sealing off of their village a day earlier.

Israel and its proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army (SLA). effectively annexed Amoun to their occupation zone in south Lebanon on Thursday by and land mines to prevent access from the rest of Lebanon.

Minister of Public Works and Transport Najib Mikati lead a

group to the edge of Amoun, site of frequent guerrilla attacks on Israeli forces, and talked to the few old people waiting beyond the barbed wire.

"I came here on behalf of the Lebanese president and government. We are doing our best to free Amoun from the Israeli prison," Mikati said.

Old women and children ing the restoration of access to their village. One woman said members of the International Committee of the Red Cross had entered earlier on Friday to Lebanon.

bring bread and medicine. State officials and representatives of political parties joined the protest in the village of Kafr Tibneer, which overlooks Amoun on the edge of Israel's 15-kilometre deep occupation

The action by Israeli and SLA troops had forced residents of the largely depopulated village checkpoint at Kafr Tibneet, one of the handful of places where one is allowed to move between the occupied area and the rest of

## Kurds burn Turkish flag, continue protests in Mideast, Europe

Agencies

THOUSANDS OF Kurds demonstrated across the Middle East Friday in support of rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan, burning the Turkish flag in the Lebanese capital, attacking Turkish trucks in Iran, and causing traffic chaos in Cyprus.

An estimated 3,000 to 5,000 protesters marched on the Lebanese parliament and prime ministry in Beintt, demanding that the government intercede with Turkey to set Ocalan free.

Ocalan, who was seized by Turkish security agents in Kenya on Monday, is well-known in Lebanon, where his group had training camps in the 1980s. He was last seen in Lebanon in 1992 at a guerrilla training camp in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa

Two former Lebanese cabinet ministers joined the protest. The protesters burned a Turk-

ish flag in front of the parliament building as they shouted "Apo, Apo" — Ocalan's nickname and carried portraits of the guerrilla leader that read: "Apo, Mandela of the Kurds" and "Freedom for Ocalan."

In Nicosia, Cyprus, about 300

demonstrators waving Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) flags and chanting "free ocalan!" marched through the city centre, bringing traffic to a standstill for an hour.

Earlier, some 100 Kurds ended a hunger strike outside the Greek embassy. Before dispersing, they delivered a letter to the embassy in the name of the PKK's political wing, the National Liberation Front of Kurdistan.

The letter demanded ocalan's release and the resignation of Greek Prime Minister Costas

In Tehran, more than 2,000 Kurds stood outside the Turkish embassy, shouting 'Turkey, we will burn you!"

The protesters then marched through the Iranian capital, carrying pictures of Ocalan and chanting "Long Live Apo."

Elsewhere in Iran, some 3,000 Kurds staged a demonstration in Mahabad, a city close to the borders of Iraq and Turkey that was proclaimed the capital of Kurdistan early this century.

In Bern, Kurdish activists protesting at Turkey's capture of Ocalan ended their occupation of a Swiss political party's headquarters and freed two hostages

unhanned on Friday, Swiss media reported.

The SDA news agency said demonstrators, numbering 20 to 30, left around 18:05 local time, some three hours after they had entered the Radical Democrats offices and seized two staff members.

Police allowed the activists and dozens of supporters who had gathered outside to leave the

In Geneva, a group of Kurds occupied the headquarters of the World Council of Churches as part of continuing protests against the arrest of Ocalan.

Konrad Raiser, general secretary of the church council which groups more than 300 churches in 100 countries was holding talks with the demonstrators, a statement said.

Meanwhile, the head of the U.N. European headquarters in Geneva, Vladimir Petrovsky, had discussions with other senior U.N representatives on how to tighten security to prevent future occupations by pro-

(Continued on page 12)



Kurdish protesters Friday carry a picture of Abdullah Ocalan during a demonstration in front of the Israeli consulate in Montreal. One policeman was injured and 14 peo-

## Paper to resume publication after ruling overturned

By Mohammad Ben Hussein

AMMAN — The opposition weekly Al Majd will reappear on the newsstands Monday after the Court of Appeals overturned a recent lower court decision to suspend publication while its editor stands trial on charges of publishing false and offensive

In an unprecedented decision, the Court of Appeals ruled on Thursday that the application of Article 50 of the 1998 Press and Publications Law, which allows for closure of a newspaper during the ongoing trial of any of its employees charged with violating the press law, was inappropriate in this case.

The Amman Court of Appeals, headed by Judge Mohammad Saed Nasser, took a historic decision on Thursday by overruling last Sunday's decision by the Court of First Instance to stop the publication of Al Maid," said Khalil Khumna, the

weekly's managing editor. "Hence, the paper will appear on Monday," its regular day of publication, he said in a statement made available to the Jordan Times on Fri-

Al Majd editor Fahed Rimawi is charged with "slandering the Royal family, publishing false information about the prime minister and members of the government and attacks on the security service."

He was detained on Feb. 4

and released on bail two days

The Jordan Press Founda-

tion criticised Sunday's court decision to ban the publication of the weekly until the end of the trial and urged the government to introduce changes to the much-opposed law to stop such practices. Rimawi is the first journal-

ist to stand trial under the 1998 Press and Publications Law — at the heart of international, regional and local criticism by press freedoms and human rights groups.

Khurma said the appellate court revoked the earlier decision after Hussein Mjalli, Rimawi's defence attorney and head of the Jordan Bar Association, decided to appeal the decision. He hailed "the justice and

integrity of the Jordanian judicial system which proved once again it will remain a supporter of freedom, rights and democracy."

No date has been set yet for Rimawi's trial. But Khurma said he expected Rimawi to appear before the court in the "next few weeks" in proceedings related to this case and another separate case.

Meanwhile, Al Majd's brief ban appears to have created unease between the JPA and the Press and Publications Department (PPD), which says it decided to take the case to court after the association failed to look into it.

(Continued on page 12)

### ple arrested during the demonstration (AP photo) Turk president hopes law will disarm PKK guerrillas Ecevit tells story of Ocalan's capture, 'confirms' outside help

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkish President Suleyman Demirel has called for a "repentance law" to encourage followers of captured Kurdish guerrilla chief Abdullah Ocalan to come down from the mountains and surrender before the

Demirel's comments were the first conciliatory words from a senior figure since Ocalan was captured in Kenya and spirited back to face treason charges. But fractious parties seemed

reluctant to back a recall of parliament before April elections.

"I know that this law might not be viewed positively in some places where there is suffering, but it is important in

headedness and tolerance."

the name of preventing more bloodshed," Demirel told Milliyet newspaper. "This must be completed with cool-

"There are still 2,000 people in the mountains [of southeastern Turkey] and 3,000 in Iraq. Spring is coming. These people must be prevented going down this dead-end street."

But after Demirel's appeal a 15-yearold boy was killed in a clash between police and demonstrators supporting Ocalan's separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) in the southeastern city of

Kiziltepe, local officials said. Witnesses said the boy was caught in an exchange of fire between police and

It was the first bloodshed in Turkey

since Ocalan's dramatic arrest. Scattered protests have occurred in the southeast and in big city suburbs where Kurds have migrated to escape the fight-

ing and widespread poverty. The president said a law should be passed quickly, before the April 18 elections and before the spring period, when the PKK would normally resume operations in southeastern Turkey.

(Continued on page 12)

## **UNSCOM** chief fears Iraq will face down U.N.

MELBOURNE (R) — The United Nations chief Iraq weapons inspector Richard Butler said on Friday he feared Baghdad would succeed in stopping U.N. efforts to scrap its weapons of mass destruction and block its arms programmes.

Butler, in Australia for an international disarmament conference, told reporters he had expressed his "grave concern that I do hold about the prospect that this one recalcitrani state might succeed in facing down the law passed by the Security Council" in a meeting with Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer.

Butler said he also told Downer of his fears over the deadlock between Iraq and the United Nations and "the prospect that we won't be able to resume the business of controlling Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programme."

Last December the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM), charged with ridding Iraq of its nuclear. chemical and biological capabilities. weapons pulled out over Iraq's lack of cooperation. Iraq's stance triggered U.S. and British air strikes.

In a bid to end the standoff with Iraq, the U.N. Security Council set up three new panels, including one which will start meeting next week to recommend ways of resuming weapons monitoring in

Butler said if Iraq agreed to cooperate with the panel's plan, due in late March. weapons inspections could resume some time in April at the earliest.

He declined to speculate on whether the new monitoring plan would be less stringent than the rules that Iraq defied.

But he said his UNSCOM team made clear to the Security Council last month that even if the U.N. stopped pursuing Iraq's past weapons programme and focused only on Baghdad's current activities, inspections would have to be just as tight.

"If that's the council's decision, we can do it. But we warned that under that set of circumstances, the monitoring system would have to be very heavyweight, very intrusive and continue to have elements that are not different from what we were doing under the disarmament system which is no-notice inspections at places of our choice at our time and so on."

The International Atomic Energy Agency issued a similar warning in a report last week on the need for

### U.S. officer says Saddam no threat to forces in Turkey

SUMTER (AP) — The man in charge of U.S. air operations around Iraq says Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is a desperate man who is no threat to American forces in

"I don't think he has the ability to attack Turkey," said Lt. Gen. Hal Hornburg, commander of the 9th Air Force based at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter. "He does have the ability to attack Kuwait and Saudi Arabia."

Saddam has threatened to attack Turkey because of the American and British warplanes based there. The planes enforce a no-fly zone over northern Iraq that has been in place since the end of the Gulf War in 1992.

Homburg also talked about operation Desert Fox, December's mission to destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, reduce Iraq's ability to threaten its neighbours and defend Kuwait.

"The operation, though it only lasted four days, was painstakingly planned and executed," he said, "As always, we stand ready to defend Kuwait." Hornburg said claims that the bombing of an oil facili-

ty during the mission burt Iraqi civilians was unfounded. He claimed that money generated by the facility went straight into Saddam's pockets. Hornburg made his remarks to about 100 people at the

Sumter Chamber of Commerce breakfast.

intrusive inspections to make sure Iraq did not build a nuclear bomb.

Butler was pessimistic on whether Iraq would comply soon with the prerequisites for lifting sanctions, which have been in place since Baghdad invaded Kuwait in August 1990. "They are making very bellicose noises at the moment," he said. The outspoken Australian,

who last December offended Russian diplomats and firmly denied allegations that UNSCOM spied on Iraq for the United States, confirmed he would not seek to renew his UNSCOM contract when it ends in June.

He said he would willingly quit earlier if the revised monitoring plan set up a new inspection team.



Two Lebanese women carrying their children stand behind barbed wire in the southern Lebanese village of Arnoun on Thursday. The inhabitants there woke up to find their homes incorporated into the zone occupied by Israel and its South Lebaon Army (SLA) allied militia. The SLA issued a statement saying the wire had been put up 'to protect the inhabitants from Hizbollah forces who use their village to launch terrorist acts against the Israeli army and the SLA' (AFP photo)

## denies report on Arafat's health

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) - Palestinian officials on Friday denied a report in a London-based journal that Palestinian President Yasser Arafat has developed arterial sclerosis and is suffering from memory lapses.

Citing sources close to Arafat, the foreign report said in Thursday's editions that the man with the legendary memory cannot remember what happened yesterday."

Arafat aide Ahmad Tibi, a physician, called the report "nonsense." "These are the same lies concerning the health of the chairman published every five or six months," Tibi said, adding that Arafat's health was excellent and that his aides have trouble keeping up with the Palestinian leader's 16hour work days. Tibi said the 68-year-old Arafat, who was in Rome on Friday for a meeting with Pope John Paul IL sees a doctor periodically, but would not say how often. Arterial sclerosis is a hardening of the blood vessels that can restrict blood supply to the brain and cause memory

## North Iraq a thorn in the side of Turkey-Iraq ties

BAGHDAD (R) - Turkey hit Iraq with a double blow this week, spurning Baghdad's appeal to stop Western warplanes from using a Turkish base and then sending its troops deep inside northern Iraqi territory to pursue

Analysts said the volatile northern territory was a festering sore in relations between Turkey and Iraq.

They added, however, that Iraq was unlikely to let ties unravel at a time when it is struggling under U.N. sanctions and its southern neighbia show no signs of preventing Western planes from attacking Iraq in the south.

"Iraq needs friends. It has everything to lose and nothing to gain by letting its ties with Turkey get worse," one diplomat said.

"Its ties with Turkey are like an old marriage. Things will not break down easily."

U.S. warplanes fired missiles on Friday at Iraqi radar sites in the northern no-fly zone, set up after the 1991 Gulf War to protect Kurds.

It was the third time this week that the planes were reported raiding the north in

patrols launched from Turkey's Incirlik base.

Baghdad reported attacks in the north on Monday and Thursday. In a separate statement it then slammed Turkey for sending troops into northem Iraq to pursue rebels loyal to jailed Kurd leader Abdullah Ocalan.

Iraq noted the Turkish incursion, which started this week, coincided with the activities of the United States and Britain.

"[The Iraqi government] demands the Turkish government pull out its invading tories immediately and to stop repeating such practices...' the Iraqi foreign ministry statement said.

"What arouses astonishment is that the new Turkish invasion comes at a time when Ankara carried out high-ranking political talks with the aim of promoting and developing relations..."
Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareg Aziz ended a visit to Turkey this week emptyhanded after Ankara rejected his appeal to stop Western

warplanes using Incirlik to patrol the area. He said in Ankara that Iraq

was not threatening its neighbours but that Iraq itself was endangered by the U.S. and British patrols.

Western attacks on Iraqi targets in the northern and southern no-fly zones have become a regular occurrence since Iraq said last month it did not recognise the exclusion areas.

This week, Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan was asked by Radio Monte Carlo if Iraq was prepared to attack the Turkish base as it had said it might do to the Gulf bases.

He said that if "Incirlik keeps being used to attack Iraq, the threats of an Iraqi response may also affect it." Since the 1991 Gulf War, Baghdad has lost control over northern Iraq, where Turkey keeps a semi-permanent presence in the rugged mountains.

Iraq has criticised previous incursions into the areas by Turkey, which says it has the right to pursue Kurdish rebels.

Other irritants include Turkey's military exercises with Israel and Ankara's request last month for Washington to send Patriot missiles to Turkey in case of an escalation with Baghdad.

One analyst said the latest Turkish incursion along with the Western patrols in the north after Aziz's visit had complicated the picture. There are so many factors. Iraq was looking for cracks to fight the no-fly zones and it

didn't find any in Turkey" "But I believe Iraq and Turkey have a lot of common interests. First is the threat of an independent Kurdish state and then there are economic. considerations," the analyst said.

Turkey's economy in the south was reliant on trade with Iraq before the Gulf War and it has felt the pinch of the U.N. trade sanctions. Turkey also received revenue from Iraqi oil transiting by pipeline as well as good terms for oil. Turkey wants Iraq to stop

the diplomat, But Turkey also has NATO agreements and bilateral military accords, including one with Iraq's enemy, the United

defying the no-fly zones and

get the sanctions lifted," said

"Turkey and Iraq need each other, but it is now like a chess match being played with a lot of parallel characters," the analyst said.

### Local students produce 1st Mideast French magazine marised in French."

By Susan Resheq

AMMAN — Students from several governmental and non-governmental schools have produced the first French magazine in Jordan and the first to be published in the Arab World. "I regard producing such a

magazine as the crowning of the creative ability of all students who participated in bringing it out," said Izat Jaradat, Ministry of Education secretary general.

The magazine, "Fax", was produced under the supervi-

ny in France called "Clem." Clem is involved in the production of the "Fax" magazine in many countries, and Jordan is the first Arab country it has dealt with. through a representative that supervises the students' work.

The representative said is cooperation "there between the Jordanian and the French ministries of education, and between the French Cultural Centre and governmental and non-govemmental schools".

"This activity is aimed at Centre and a media compa- years of age; we try to create ed, translated and sum-

a cultural bridge between countries and to produce good reporters for the future," she told the Jordan Times. Dana Qussous, one of the students active in producing Fax said: "It is a monthly magazine, and the activity is regarded as a world youth gathering. Each month a different country publishes the magazine."

Ammar Aloush. another student, said: "Fax deals with many subjects. Our issue focused on 'From Education To Humanitarianism. We received faxes from

Rand Halasah, a student from one of the schools that participated, said: "Many students took part with their own reports in French: they talked about a multitude of matters." The Clem representative said: "We regard cooperation with Jordan as a great step and we try to cooperate in the future in various activities."

The French Cultural centre published 160 copies of the magazine which was dedicated to His Majesty King

### Palestinians say talks with U.S. signal stronger ties

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — The United States and the Palestinians set up five bilateral committees in recent Washington talks, a top Palestinian official said Thursday, a signal for the Palestinians of a new era in

U.S.-Palestinian relations. Saeb Erekat, the top Palestinian negotiator, said the committees would cover trade and investment; information exchange; U.S. aid; legal issues, especially U.S. Congress decisions targeting the Palestinian National Authority: and a business council with 15 businessmen from each community.

The committees would be overseen by senior Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath and a yet-to-be-named State Department official.

This was a very important development in U.S.-Palestinian relations,"

Erekat said of the talks led by U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Mahmoud Abbas, deputy to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

"For the first time, we are talking with the Americans about bilateral issues without having Israelis there." he said.

Israel once insisted on full involvement in Palestinian development seeing greater

threat to Israel's negotiation position, but the Israeli role has diminished as Palestinian-U.S. relations have flourished in recent months.

U.S. President Bill Clinton visited the Gaza Strip and Bethlehem in December in what Palestinians saw as tacit acknowledgement of their aspirations to statehood.

**DEPARTURES** 

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:00 .....Aqaba (add) (RJ)

07:00 .....Aqaba, Linz (add) (RJ)

11:15 .....Rome (RI)

11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

12:00 ...... Geneva, Madrid (RJ)

21:25 .... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

22:15 ....Riyadh, Dhahran (RI)

06:15 Damascus, London (BA)

14:15 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (GF)

...Beirut (RJ)

...Frankfurt (RJ)

....Brussels (RJ)

...London (RJ)

.....Cairo (RJ)

...Jeddah (RJ)

..... Lamaca (CY)

.....Larnaca (RJ)

.....Bombay (RJ)

.....Agaba, Madrid (RJ)

Airport) (RW)

11:30 .....

11:50

16:45

19:55

23:00

Other Flights

20:15 ....

..Cairo (RI)

.Frankfurt (RJ)

...Brussels (RJ)

Lamaca (Ri)

…Paris ≀R⊅

11:40 .....

#### **JORDAN TELEVISION** Tel. 4773111-19 PROGRAMME TWO

....News headlines 19:35 ......Doc - Perspective 20:00 News in Arabic (Channel 2 links up with channel () 20:30 Programme on the late His Majesty King Hussein 21:00 Islamic History in Jordan 21:30 ....On the Banks of Jordan 22:00 .... .....News in English 22:10 Doc. - National Geographic 23:00 News in Arabic (Channel 2 links up with channel 1)

### PRAYER TIMES

04:52	Fajr
06:10,	(Sunrise) Duh:
11;49	Dhuh
14:59	
17:29	Maghret
	'Isha

### **CHURCHES**

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 5920740 Assemblies of God Church Tel. St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590 Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366 Anglican Church 4624853/4624811. St. Afrem Syrian Orthodox

Amman International Church

Church Tel. 4771751.

### **JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CAL** Tel. 5865897

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404 choppy. The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel, 4654932 St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757 Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440

Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138 Church of Presentation, Sweifieh Tel. 5920146 The Uniate Catholic Church Tel. 4624757

English-Language

Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190 Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679 The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052 The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 4771331 The Armenian Orthodox

### WEATHER

Church Tel. 4775261

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Cold weather conditions will prevail with temperatures dipping further. Occasional scattered showers are expected and winds northwesterly moderate. In Agaba, it will be rainy, skies partly cloudy, winds northerly moderate to active, and seas

Min./Max, temp.	
Amman	04
Aqaba	09
Deserts	
Jordan Valley	09
Vestenlay's high te	·mn-273111

Amruan 12 Aqaba 21. Humidity readings: Amman 92 per cent, Aqaba 55 per cent.

Ajloun	01/0
Jerash	02/1
Um Qays	02/12
Madaba	
Petra	03/12
Dead Sea	08/1

#### TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

9/17

Following are the tempreatures expected today in the following

Vladaba	
etra	03/1
Dead Sea	08/1
LISER	MIT.

AMMAN:	
Dr. Sa'id Tavtiq	478828
Dr. Wissam Hzayyin	474856
Dr. Omar Yassin	533622
Dr. Khalid Abdo	465712

Firas Pharmacy ......5661912

Al Salam Pharmacy 4636730 Mayadah Pharmacy ...5537004 Rukn Al Dawa Pharmacy 5536169

TRBID: Dr. Lotfi Al Shalabi ...(02)241789 Fou'ad Pharmacy .(02)275360

ZARQA: Dr. Salah Saffarini (05)987565 Palestine Pharmacy..(05)983562

### **EMERGENCIES**

Food Control Centre.....4637111 Civil Defence Department ,5661111 Civil Defence Immediate Res-....4630341 Civil Defence Emergency..... 199 Rescue Police 192, 4621111, 4637777 Fire Brigade.. ...4617101 Blood Bank... ...4775121 Highway Police......5343402 ..4896390 Traffic Police... Public Security Dept....4630321 Hotel Complaints......5605800 Price Complaints......5661176 Water & Sewerage Complaints \_\_.4897467 Amman Municipality Complaints .... ...787111 Telephone Information (directory assistance) ... Overseas Calls . .....0132 Central Amman Telephone .4623101 Abdali Tel. Repairs......5661101

Jordan Television .....

Water Authority ......

Radio Jordan

....4773111

.4774111

...5680100

J. Electricity Authority 5815615 Electric Power Co.... 4636381 RJ Flight Information. 44-53200 Queen Alia Intl. Airport ..44-53200

### HOSPITALS

The Arab Centre for Heart and Spe-

AMMAN:

..4630195 Akileh Maternity.......464244 1/2 Jubal Amman Maternity....1642362 Palestine, Shmeisani .....5607071 Shmeisani Hospital .....5607431 Jordan Hospital ..... ...5607550 University Hospital ......5353444

ZARQA: Zarqa Govt.

Princess

cial Surgery ......5921199 The Islamic, Abdli ......5666131/7 Hussein Medical Centre...5856856 Khalidi Maternity......4644281/6 Malhas, J. Amman. ....4636140 Al-Muasher Hospital 5667227/9 Al-Ahli, Abdali ......5664164/6 Italian, Al-Muhajreen 4777101/3 Al-Bashir.......4775111/26 Army, Marka .....4891611/15 Queen Alia Hospital......5157100 Amal Hospital......5607155 Al Amai Cancer Centre , 5353000

Hospital ...(09)983323 National Hospital ..(09)900560 Ibn Sina Hospital .... (09)986731 Al Hikma Modern Hospital

TRBTD: Basma Hospital .....(02)275555 Catholic Hospital ...(02)272275 Ibn Al Nafees Hospital ...(02) 7101372, 102) 7103101 Rosary Sisters Hospital

7102011 Speciality Hospital ...(02) 7103100 Haya Princess Hospital

(03)2014111

L(02) 7102831, (02)

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (44)53200 where it should always be verified. Information on other flights is obtained on telephone (44) 52700 or (44) 523250. Information on Royal Wings flights can be supplied on phone 4875201-5

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights 08:30 ......Aqaba (add) (RJ)

ENDAR
08:30
10:05Beirut (RJ) 10:15Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:45
18:10Linz (add) (RJ)

07:15Bangkok, Doha (RJ)
Other Flights
13:05Vienna (OS)
13:15Riyadh (SV)
13:20 Abu Dhabi. Doha (GF)
14:05Rome (AZ)
18:00Dubai, Damascus (EK)
18:40Beirut (NIE)
19:05Paris (AF)
19:15Frankfun (LH)
21:35
22:55 London Dame: av. The
01:00Belgrade (JU)

20:15

21:25.

22:00

23:00.

00:35

Royal Wings (RW) 08:30 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA) (RW) 08:50 Aqaba (arriving at QAIA) (RW) 09:35 Aqaba (arriving at Marka Airport) (RW)

16:00 Agaba tarriving at Marka

...Riyadh (SV) | 🌑 ..Vienna (OS) 19:00 .Dubai (EK) 20:00 Beirut (ME) 22:35 ..Cairo (MS) ...... Amsterdam (KL) ----- Belgrade (JU) Royal Wings (RW) 06:00 Agaba (from QAIA)

08:30 Aqaba (from Marka Air-POITH RW) 19:45 Aqaba (from Marka Airport)(RW) 20:30 Agaba (from QAIA) (RW) rench magazin

ty, February 20, 15,

# By Alia Shukri Hamzeh

KING, ROYAL FAMILY MEMBERS VISIT KING HUSSEIN'S TOMB: His Majesty King Abdullah accompanied by HRH Princess Rania Al Abdullah, HRH Crown Prince Hamzah Ben Al Hussein, HRH Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, and HRH Hashem Ben Al Hussein Thursday pay a visit to the tomb of the late King Hussein and recited verses from the Holy Koran. King Abdullah also received condolences from the widow of former Lebanese President Réné Muawwad, former Saudi Petroleum Minister Mohammad Zaki Yamani, and Chairman of the Israeli Army Shaol Mofaz (Petra photo)

## Queen receives Suharto's daughters, wife of Na'el Muwwad

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor, who went to pray at His Majesty King Hussein's grave, met Thursday several mourners there to lay wreath and pay their respects to the late

Among them were Palestinians living in Israel and the West Bank as well as Palestinian refugees.

The Queen thanked them for their prayers, wreaths and support.

Earlier, Queen Noor at Raghadan Palace Siti Rukmana and Siti Hediati, the daughters of former President Suharto of Indonesia, who presented the Queen with a letter from their father, in which he expressed his grief over the passing of King Hussein. They also presented the Queen with two handwritten and hand-bound Korans for the Queen and

the Royal family: the holy books were produced during the first 1,000 days following their mother's

Queen Noor said that King Abdullah knows their part of the world very well and will carry on his father's legacy in promoting and developing relations between the two

She added that Princess Rania, who is very involved in development work in Jordan, will be a valuable partner for them to work with in the future.

Queen Noor also met Mrs. Na'ela Mu'awwad, the wife of the late President of Lebanon Réné Mu'awwad. In offering her condolences to the Queen Mrs. Mu'awwad said that the late King Hussein was a "great friend and a great Arab leader." Mrs.

nied by her son Michel, the wife of the Lebanese Ambassador and Senator Leila Sharaf.

Princess Rania Abdullah and Princess Basma Bint Talal attended both meet-

Queen Noor and the

members of the Royal family received condolences at Raghadan Palace from mourners who were unable to pay their respects earlier. With the Queen were Their Royal Highnesses Princess Rania Abdullah, Princess Basma Bint Talal, Princess Mohammad, Tahgreed Princess Sarvath El Hassan. Princess Alia. Princess Aisha. Princess Zein, Princess Mona, Princess Faisal, Princess Alia Al Ghida Talal, Princess Rahma, Princess Sumaya and Ms. Farah Daghestani.



Her Majesty Queen Noor receives condolences from an orthodox priest near the grave of King Hussein, Thursday (AP photo)

## Sacked editors to write for Al Ra'i

AMMAN — Two senior editors who were sacked from Al Arab Al Yawm daily earlier this month will join fellow columnists at Al Ra'i newspaper as of today, said Al Ra'i's chief editor on Friday.

"Starting Saturday both former editors will have columns in Al Ra'i paper," said Abdul Wahab Zugheilat.

Saleh Al Kallab, Al Arab Al Yawm's former chief editor and Taher Al Adwan, responsible editor, were handed letters of dismissal dated Feb. 2 by the daily's administration informing them that their services were no longer required.

The letters, however, did not give reasons for the dismissals, but said that their contracts with the daily due to end in March would not be renewed and that they have been given the rest of February as vacation.

Due to replace them was journalist Marwan Hzayyin who, because of a heart attack, was unable to assume the

The Press and Publications Law stipulates that a new responsible editor should be appointed no longer than one month after a vacancy.

According to sources, Al Arab Al Yawm's administration has been busy interview-ing candidates for the two

"I still do not know why the paper did this, and if I were to give you reasons I would be guessing," Kallab said, refusing to elaborate further.

The whole issue is behind us now and we are expecting to sign a contract with Al Ra i soon," he added.

Kallab and Adwan have been working with Al Arab Al Yawm ever since it first came out in May, 1997. Before that they were both columnists at Al Dustour daily.

Sources close to the two journalists said they have already filed law suites against the Al Arab Al Yawm for "arbitrary dismissal," and that a court notice has been delivered to the paper's administra-

"No reaction from the paper has been received as yet," the source, requesting anonymity,

Reasons behind the dismissal of both writers remains a puzzle to many, yet speculations have centred around personal differences between the chief editor and Dr. Riyadh Al Hroub, chairman of the Board of Al Arab Al Yawm's.

Agence France Presse (AFP) and the London-based Al Hayatt daily both said at the time that Hroub had sacked his editors shortly after they published unofficial reports on changes in the line of succession.

Hroub has remained tightlipped over the issue and would only comment that the dismissals were merely part of the paper's "internal restructuring process," and that Kallab and Adwan's cases against the paper would not stand, because they lack legal

"Their contracts expired and we did not renew them... they were informed amicably of this, and in accordance with the law," Hroub added.

Kallab said he and his colleague were pleased to write for Al Ra'i, but he did not specify if the arrangement was a permanent one, or if they planned to contribute to other publications.

Zugheilat told the Jordan Times that Adwan's column in Al Ra'i will be on the first page of the second section, while Kallab's column will be on the last page of the paper's

### Jordan, France extend three-year irrigation accord

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan reflects his country's desire to and France have agreed to assist in making available suffiextend a three-year accord for improving the efficiency of water irrigation in the Jordan Valley by an additional year, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation announed Friday.

According to Jordan Valley Authority Secretary General Dureid Mahasneh, who cosigned the agreement with French Ambassador in Amman Bernard Emié, the purpose of the bilateral accord is to encourage the application of modern technology in the management of water distribution in irrigation and other areas, particularly in view of the sparse rainfall this winter.

Ernié, stressing that France is determined to help Jordan cope with its future challenges under the leadership of His Majesty King Abdullah, said the Jordan Valley water programme cient water for inigation in cooperation with the JVA.

The project, which is based on water distribution only upon demand by the users, entails ensuring coordination between the JVA and individual farmers, a system reported to have proven successful in western France over the last 30 years, the ambassador said.

Already, he said, several Jordanian engineers and technicians have been trained in applying this system, during 1999 training more engineers will be trained, and in 2000 work will be conducted in the Jordan Valley by a French team to help the JVA draft an integrated plan for the region. When the draft is completed it is to be submitted to the Ministry of Planning to secure

## Investigation into shoot-out to submit findings 'soon'

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — Minister of Interior Nayef Qadi on Friday said that a security committee was formed to investigate the killing of two policemen during a shoot-out with prisoners who were being escorted from the State Security Court to Swaqa Prison on Wednesday.

Qadi said the committee, composed of Public Security Department senior officers, is expected to submit its report in few days. He declined to give further details.

"We have asked them to speed up their investigations, and hopefully results will be disclosed soon," the minister said.

Sergeants Mohammad Daifallah and Mahmoud Faraheed were killed when two prisoners, Mohammad Jaghameen and Abdullah Suleiman, them inside the police van that was carrying them back to Swaqa prison, 100 kilometres south

The two prisoners are being tried for the murders of 12 people in separate crimes in the Shmeisani and Rabiya neighbourhoods of Amman. An Iraqi diplomat was among those who were killed.

Suleiman was killed during the shoot-out, and Jaghabeen sustained injuries following the three-hour stand-off where tens of policemen were called to the scene.

Jaghabeen is currently being treated at the King Hussein Medical Centre under tight police security.

Local Arabic dailies said that one possibility the committee is investigating is whether one of the two prisoners succeeded in

limetre-calibre gun before

the van left the court. The interior minister refused to confirm or deny these reports and insisted that the investigations will

clear up all these doubts. Autopsies on the two policemen showed that the total of 40 gunshot wounds came from a gun, which is not Police Department standard issue, Al Ra'i Arabic daily reported Friday. The autopsy on Suleiman is expected to be conducted.

The killing of the two policemen, who were buried in their hometown in Tafileh Governorate on Friday, was the first such case in more than 30 years.

On Thursday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hamzah visited two policemen injured in the incident. They were identified as Haitham Jaloudi and Mah-

### U.S. Chairman of the joint chiefs of staff to visit Jordan

AMMAN (J.T.) — General Henry H. Shelton, Chairman of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, will arrive in Jordan on Saturday for a two-day visit. During his stay, Shelton will offer his condolences to His Majesty King Abdullah over the passing of King Hussein on Feb. 7.

The U.S. armed forces head will also meet with his Jordanian counterpart, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafiz Marei Kaabneh, and senior military and government officials. This is the second visit in less than a week of a senior U.S. military offi-

cial to Jordan. Last week General Anthony Zinni, head of U.S. Central Command visited Jordan to pay condolences to King Abdullah and to meet with Kaabneh and other officials. The U.S. has pledged additional economic and military aid to Jordan since the death of King Hussein.

### Associations continue boycott of U.S.-British products

By Mohammad Ben Hussein

AMMAN - Doctors, pharmacists and dentists professional associations have said they intend to continue their nationwide campaign to boycott U.S. and Britishmade goods in protest against the air strikes launched by the two countries on Iraq last

The associations' overall decision to mobilise popular pro-Iragi sentiments that have prevailed since the 1990-91 Gulf war, came after a meeting of the three associations, the Jordan Pharmacists Association, the Jordan Medical Association and the Jordan Dentists Association, late on Wednesday. The meeting looked into ways to maintain the two-month campaign, and attendees reiterated their appeal for the associations' members to blacklist all British and American-

made medicines. Bassim Dajani, head of the 14-member Executive Council of the Union of Professional Associations, long a hot-bed of political activism and strong pro-Iraqi and anti-Israeli stands, urged the associations' members to uphold the joint decision because "the United States and

'If the CBJ

insists on

Britain must be using a part of the money gained from selling drugs to launch their attacks against Iraq." 'This is the least we can do

to express the popular feeling, [and to] reject the strikes and the crippling sanctions imposed on Iraq," said However, the Executive

Council, which represents the country's professionals doctors, lawyers, geologists, pharmacists, artists, writers, etc. — also urged the Kingdom's 4.2 million population not to attend any activities or functions organised by the British and American embassies in Amman.

"We will continue our boycott as long as the crisis between Iraq, the U.S. and Britain continues." JMA President Bassim Dajani told the Jordan Times. But if no alternative medi-

cine is available for a British or American-manufactured drug, the boycott, an unprecedented action by the professional unions, will not apply to that drug.

Unionists said the boycott could affect sales of the controversial impotency drug Viagra, produced by the American company, Pfizer,

when it arrives on Jordanian pharmacy shelves. The Health Ministry approved the drug's registration late last

British and U.S. drugs represent 15 to 20 of Jordan's \$110 million annual medicine imports, according to independent estimates.

JPA President Abdul Rahim Issa, whose members own 1,600 pharmacies and 12 drug factories, dismissed fears that the boycott decision would have a negative impact on the needs of Jordanian patients.

"Local and foreign alternatives to the American and British drugs are available, and some U.S. and British medicines would be exempt from the boycott if no local alternative is available." he

Ahmad Qadiri, head of the Doctors Association urged the trade sector to demonstrate solidarity with their "Iraqi brothers" and "maintain the boycott and not fall for a handful of money."

Jordanians from all walks of life have staged peaceful demonstrations to protest the latest air strikes against iraq. launched early Thursday.

## Two-day weekend meets with mixed reactions from bank staff

By Suha Ma'ayeh

AMMAN — A recent decision by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) to introduce a two-day weekly holiday has sparked mixed reactions. with employees fearing having to change their daily routine and managers saying it would boost business

links with the world. The decision, taken earlier this month, asked the country's 22 commercial banks to close on Friday and Saturday as of March 1. instead of Friday alone and to increase daily working hours to make up for lost

rime. Most of the country's 15,000 bank employees said they were angered by the move on the grounds that they found it difficult to change their day-to-day lifestyles.

Under the new rules, they will have to operate from Sunday to Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a 30minute lunch break - to bring the total number of working hours to a maximum of 42.5 hours instead of a minimum of 36 hours.

Banks will open to the public from 9:00 a.m. until on Feb.4.

who anonymity, said the new system would force him to drop afternoon classes he is attending at a private banking institution to obtain a certified financial manager postgraduate degree.

"Even though I can attend the course, I will not find much time to study," he

Hassan, 25, a customer services clerk since 1996.

"These working hours Others, like Ne'meh

4:30 p.m. during work days, according to an announcement made by CBJ Governer Ziyad Fariz A 30-year-old credit offirequested

Facing monthly payments on a JD24,000 housing loan

For working women, the adjustment seems even

"Having the doors closed at 4:30 means we will stay on until 6:00 p.m. to finish our work," said Amneh

will be too long and too tir-

Khayat, 33, who works at a public relations department at one of the Arab Bank's 33 branches, said having to work for longer hours will keep her away from her two young children for a long "I have no help at home.

When my children get back from school they have to be on their own," said Khayat between telephone calls.

at an interest rate of four per cent, Khayat said she had no intention of quitting after the new rules take Bankers said the new

arrangements, similar to those applied in most developed countries, will boost economic and business activity in Jordan by extending services for longer hours.

"Prolonging working hours at financial institutions in Jordan for another three hours will narrow the time gap between the Jordanian financial sector and major financial markets,"

stressed CBJ Deputy Gov-ernor Ahmed Abdel-Fattah.

He said the move will reflect positively on communications and correspondence with banks abroad because of extra working hours that will accommodate some of the time differences around the world. This, Abdel-Fattah added.

will enable banks to closely monitor developments in world financial markets and to expand their network of business there. Abdel-Fattah said apart

from Friday, the Muslim world's national weekly holiday, the CBJ opted for adding Saturday because it is a holiday in other world markets. "Had we chosen any other

day then we would have been cut off from these markets for four days," he said, referring to the West's Saturday/Sunday weekend. Haidar Rashid, President of Jordan's Trade Union of

Insurance and Auditors

Employees, said he was

lobbying the CBJ to alter

working hours so that

bankers start work at 8:00 a.m and finish at 3:30 p.m. "We welcome the idea of

having a two-day holiday," he told the Jordan Times. "But we are against extending working hours until 5:00 p.m. as this might have serious repercussions on the majority of banking employees and their fami-

lies," he explained. "If the CBJ insists on extending working hours, it might cut down the workforce, especially women who have children," Rashid

Article 56 of the 1996 Labour Law sets a maximum of eight working hours a day and says they should not exceed 48 hours a week spread over six days at most. Other bank employees said working for six hours a day six days a week had become an aquired right, therefore, they should be compensated for having to work extra

hours. Majed, 55, an Arab Bank employee for nearly two decades, said only owners

extending working hours, it might cut down the workforce,

especially women who have children'

of banks will benefit from the new changes.

"The shift allowances, employees earn which twice a year for having to work overtime, will be

called off," he said. "Besides, we will not be compensated for extra hours that we will be working," he added.

However, some banks Jordan's moves towards such as the Housing Bank will not be affected by the new ruling as they have been working from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. six days a week for over two years.

Mohammad Abu Zeid, Housing Bank assistant general manager for marketing, said the bank's more than 2,000 employees manning 106 branches across Jordan were accustomed to working for longer hours.

more private sector clients, especially since some people can't make it to the bank in the morning because they work," he said.

"We were able to cater for

"To us, the new rules mean we will have to work an extra hour five days a week," he added.

Having a two-day break will give bankers a chance to expand their social activities and to spend more time with their children," he

added. Mifleh Akel, managing director of the Association of Banks, said that new rules were needed to match economic globalisation.

world while our banks are closed," he asked. "Even though some social burdens might arise from the decision, especially on young couples with chil-

"How are we going to

deal with the rest of the

dren and school time, the decision is not intended to cut down the workforce, However, Akel suggested that Jordan must have a unified holiday. The government is currently studying plans to have a two-day

weekend, opting for Thursday in addition to Friday. "If the government takes a decision to have two days off, then they will be better off not to do it on Thursday

and Friday," he said. Others like Diab Bayyari, 48, Arab Bank deputy manager at the administration division remained skeptical

about the decision. "The decision is beyond our control. We have to try it out before we pass judgment." he said.

## U.S. envoy in last-ditch Belgrade talks

RAMBOUILLET, France workers and their families (R) — Chief U.S. mediator began an exodus from Christopher Hill arrived in Belgrade Friday in a lastditch bid to get Yugoslav Slobodan Milosevic to accept a Kosovo peace deal before Saturday's deadline, a U.S. diplomat said.

It was the second trip to the Yugoslav capital in a week for Hill, one of the mediators at the 13-day-old peace talks between Serbia and ethnic Albanians at the Chateau of Rambouillet. southwest of Paris.

"He (Hill) has gone at the request of the Secretary (U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright) to reiterate, so that there is no ambiguity, the decision and the seriousness of the decision that needs to be made in order for there to be an agreement by noon tomorrow." the diplomat said.

Thursday, already, Albright had bluntly warned Milosevic that he would face NATO air strikes unless a peace deal was sealed by Saturday midday (1100

She said she had told Milosevic that "if air strikes occur, he will be hit hard and he will be deprived of the things he values"

About 430 NATO strike and support planes — including 260 U.S. jets are on alert. A Pentagon official suggested an initial strike of 50 Tomahawk cruise missiles could send a sharp message to Milosevic without risking alliance war-

Meanwhile, in the countdown to possible air strikes.

began an exodus from Yugoslavia Friday.

Several governments advised their citizens to leave Yugoslavia because of the threat of air strikes. Family and non-essential

staff from the British and Canadian embassies left Belgrade by car early Friday

just over 24 hours before the deadline for a peace deal at talks in France.

The United States authorised dependants and nonessential personnel to depart, but did not order them out. A U.S. embassy official said departures might take place over the

Germany, the States, Britain and Canada all advised their citizens now in Yugoslavia to leave

The first evacuations from Kosovo itself began Friday as international aid organisations started pulling out

Various non-governmental organisations (NGOs) said they were evacuating inter-national staff, many of whom would leave by car to the Macedonian border. about an hour south of Pristina.

Belgrade newspapers car-ried the text of an appeal by Serbian President Milan Milutinovic to the contact group overseeing the peace talks to lift the threat of military strikes against his

"While the Rambouillet meeting has been proceed-ing the FR (Federal Republic) of Yugoslavia has repeatedly been subject to



Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic (right) listens to Tassos Papadopulos, head of a Cypriot parliamentary delegation during talks in Belgrade. President Milosevic said Friday he would not surrender Kosovo even if failure to reach a peace deal results in NATO air strikes. Some Western diplomats and their families began leaving the Yugoslav capital Friday as the clock ticked down to possible NATO air strikes if the Kosovo peace deal was not agreed to by Saturday (Reuters photo)

aggression pronounced by high representatives of certain countries and organisa-

"As these requests and threats have not been discussed nor approved by the contact group. I am writing to you to seek protection from any such unacceptable and unfounded requests and threats," Milutinovic said in the letter dated Feb. 18 and addressed to all six Contact Group member states.

In Brussels, meanwhile, NATO sources said the Yugoslav military's air defence system would be the first target of U.S. cruise missiles fired in a limited Belgrade be blamed for scuppering a deal at Rambouillet.

If heavy damage to the public threats of military expensive, hard-to-replace

network of radars, communications, surface-to-air missiles, bases and aircraft failed to sway Milosevic, NATO could escalate to a phased campaign of bom-

The fixed field positions of Yugoslav army and spe-cial MUP paramilitary police in Kosovo, and their dug-in heavy armour, were likely to be targeted. Barracks could also be hit.

International pressure on Milosevic reached a new height Thursday. NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana warned that the alliance would strike fast if there was no deal and France and Germany all issued new pleas to Yugoslavia to settle.

The White House dismissed a warning by Russian President Boris

Yeltsin that Russia "will not let you (the United States) touch Kosovo".

"We're aware that Russia has opposed the use of force in Kosovo," said David Leavy, a spokesman for the National Security Council.

"But we've also made clear that should the Serbs refuse to comply and refuse to sign a political settlement, that NATO has to consider military action in its own interests, in the interests of the region and the interests of the United States, and we will do so," he said.

With time running out to clinch a deal, all eyes were on Yugoslav strongman Milosevic to see if he would buckle under the international pressure and sign up to an accord.

The ethnic Albanian dele-

gation warned that its support for an international peace plan could not be taken for granted. It accused mediators of conceding far too much ground to the Serbs over the question of sovereignty for Kosovo where ethnic Albanians make up the majority of the population.

Diplomatic activity around the negotiations was expected to hit top gear Friday, with the West determined to make Milosevic abandon his objection to the deployment 28,000 international peacekeepers to Kosovo to underpin any deal.

Russia, a member of the Contact Group orchestrating the talks, backs Belgrade's argument that the foreign force would undermine Yugoslavia's

## **NEWS IN BRIEF**

### S. African government agrees to protect journalists' sources

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) - Government officials and editors signed an agreement Friday recognis-ing the right of journalists to protect their sources. The deal aims to avoid legal battles such as one which has deal aims to avoid legal battles such as one which has seen subpoenas issued to 17 journalists who witnessed the brutal killing of gang leader Rashaad Staggie in 1996. Journalists have refused to testify and turn over notes and photographic material to Staggie's inquest, arguing it would impede them from doing their jobs and intimidate sources from talking to them. Some South African laws restricting press freedom have been left over from the apartheid-era when the white-run govern-African laws restricting press freedom have been left over from the apartheid-era when the white-run government sought to control the media. The deal is designed to prevent future legal battles like the Staggie case from coming to court until the laws are amended. Should police seek to invoke the laws in the future the pact allows integralists to appeal to national director of prospolice seek to invoke the laws in the ruture the pact allows journalists to appeal to national director of prosecutions Bulelani Ngcuka. Ngcuka will then try to negotiate a compromise without going to court. The Staggie case involves Associated Press Television News, the Cape Times, Cape Argus, Die Burger, SABC and other news appointments. and other news organisations. Police argue information gathered by the journalists was vital to the proper conduct of the inquest.

### Yeltsin awards Russian patriarch with top government honour

Moscow (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin awarded Patriarch Alexey II one of Russia's top honours Friday, on the Russian Orthodox Church leader's 70th birthday. Yeltsin granted the order of St. Andrew to Alexey II for outstanding contributions in the spiritual and moral revival of Russia, and the preservation of peace and agreement in society." the president wrote in a statement. Alexey, who was expected to meet Yeltsin during the day to collaborate the day to celebrate his birthday, has led Russia's Orthodox Church since 1990. He has presided over a resurgence of faith since the fall of Communism. when anti-religious drives often forced religions to operate underground. The patriarch has also led a drive to formally enshrine the Orthodox Church as Russia's main faith. A controversial 1997 religion law recognises Orthodoxy as the nation's leading faith, and promises to respect Islam, Judaism and Buddhism. But other denominations must prove they've been in Russia for at least 15 years before they're allowed full legal status. Critics have accused Alexey of trying to drive the smaller faiths out of Russia with the law, and fostering discrimination and suspicion against them.

#### 15 killed in Kashmir fighting

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Fifteen people were killed Friday in fighting between Indian security forces and separatists in Kashmir, police said. The clashes came a day before Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and his Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif begin a weekend summit that will address their competing claims to the Himalayan territory divided between them. Pakistan denies India's charges that it arms and trains the militants fighting in Indian-held Kashmir. Security forces acting on a tip were searching for militants in Kharpora Shadipora, 30 kilometres north of the Kashmiri summer capital of Srinagar, when firing broke out early Friday. Eight police and army fighters and three militants were killed in day-long battles in Kharpora Shadipora. Reporters were kept out of the area, but from a distance could see the fires of half a dozen houses hit by army shells. In Bussu Kukarnag, 70 kilometres south of Srinagar, three other rebels and another soldier were killed in fighting Friday. The insurgents in predominately Hindu India's only Muslimmajority state want independence or union with neighbouring Pakistan, which is officially Islamic. More than 17,000 people have been killed since the fighting began in 1989.

#### Bulgaria introduces visa requirements for 17 'risk' countries

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) — Bulgaria has introduced visa requirements for nationals from 17 of 24 states regarded by the European Union as "risk countries." the state news agency BTA reported Friday. The move follows accusations by Western governments that citizens of those countries use Bulgaria as a transit stop for illegal emigration to the European Union. Bulgaria, which is an associated member of the EU aspiring for full membership, is reforming its legislation in compliance with EU standards. The introduction of visa requirements towards the nationals from the risk countries aims to expedite the alignment of Bulgarian to European legislation." Foreign Minister Nadezhda Mihailova said. An entry visa will be required for citizens of Armenia, Azerbaijan. Belarus, Cuba. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan. Moldova, Tadjikistan, Turkmenistan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Zimbabwe, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates, the agency said. The new decision does not affect Russia, Ukraine, Romania, Macedonia. Yugoslavia. Georgia and Tunisia. Under the same government decision a no-visa requirements regime has been introduced towards nationals of Canada, Japan. New Zealand, Australia, Andora, the Vatican and Monaco.

#### Remains of slain American model sent home

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — The body of a slain American Monday was flown back to her family Friday, three weeks after her Greek boyfriend confessed to killing and mutilating the former model. Police said the partially burned and headless body of 31 year-old Julie Scully of Mansfield, New Jersey, was found in a marshland pool outside the northeastern town of Kavala. Scully's Greek boyfriend, George Skiadopoulos, confessed to strangling her and decapitating the body to try and hide the evidence. He told authorities they had been arguing over her inability to adjust to life in Skiadopoulos' hometown. Scully's head is still missing. Skiadopoulos said he threw it into the sea after strangling her and trying to cremate the remains Jan. 8. In December. Scully left her ex-husband, Timothy Nist and their 3-year-old daughter and came to Greece plans to marry Skiadopoulos, a petty officer aboard a cruise ship who she met on a Caribbean voyage in 1997. Nist visited Greece two weeks ago to identify the body, and bring it home. But he left Feb. 4 without her remains because identification formalities were not complete. Skiadopoulos, charged with premeditated murder, is in police custody in Kavala awaiting a trial date.

## Avoid Kosovo action, Yeltsin tells Clinton

MOSCOW (R) — The Kremlin said Friday said President Boris Yeltsin had sent a letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton earlier this week and Russian news agencies said it told Washington not to use force in Kosovo without U.N. approval.

Yeltsin said Thursday he had spoken with Clinton by telephone and sent a letter to warn the United States and its NATO allies not to use force against Serbia if peace talks in France on the future of the province fail.

But the White House said it was confused because Yeltsin had not written or spoken to Clinton in recent

Interfax news agency quoted a senior Kremlin source as saving Yeltsin had sent Wednesday the latest in a series of notes to Clinton setting out Russia's position

"We confirm the report on acceptable one." Interfax that he sent a letter," a Kremlin spokeswoman said by telephone. "But the press service did not issue a report on this and does not intend to do so." She declined to say

Interfax and ITAR-TASS news agency quoted from the letter, saying the senior Kremlin source had decided to publicise its contents because of the interest in Yeltsin's Thursday comments.

what the letter was about.

"One of the most pressing issues of international and regional security and stability is the Kosovo situation." they quoted Yeltsin's letter

as saying.
"We remain firmly convinced that the political route to solving the problem, with unconditional respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Yugoslavia, is the only

"Any attempts to use force against Yugoslavia in circumvention of the U.N. Security Council must be excluded," they quoted the letter as saying.

As a permanent member, Russia has a veto in the Security Council. NATO has said it will

move swiftly, using force, if a deal is not reached in talks Yugoslav and Albanians in Kosovo France by a Saturday noon deadline. U.S. embassy spokesman

Mike Hurley said he could not confirm a letter had been sent but that one could have been sent direct to the White House without the embassy being immediately

"It's a question for the White House," he said by telephone.

"It's not something I have any information on.

## Vatican confirms it contacted **Britain over Pinochet case**

LONDON (AP) — The Vatican confirmed Friday that it intervened in the extradition row over Gen. Augusto Pinochet, asking the British government to send the former Chilean dictator home.

Spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said the Vatican made its appeal about a month ago after a request from the Chilean government.

Chile, which opposes a foreign trial for the 83general. year-old expressed concerns about "national sovereignty. including in the field of Navarro-Valls justice,"

The Vatican spokesman also made a reference to another of Chile's arguments, that the general's arrest interferes with the process of national reconciliation.

The Holy See supports national reconciliation everywhere, including Navarro-Valls Chile." said.

Pinochet was arrested Oct. 16 in London on a Spanish warrant alleging that he ordered killings, torture and hostage-taking during his 17-year rule, which began when he ousted Chile's elected president. Marxist Salvador Allende, in

An official Chilean Pinochet's regime.

under armed guard in a

report says 3,197 people were killed or disappeared at the hands of his secret police during Pinochet, who remains

rented mansion southwest of London, is fighting extradition to Spain. His lawyers contend that, under British law, the general is entitled to immunity for any acts committed while a head of state. A ruling from

Britain's highest court on the immunity issue is pending.
The Vatican's interven-

tion in the case was disclosed Thursday by Baroness Symons, British Foreign Office minister, in a written answer to a question in the House of Lords. A Foreign Office

speaking spokesman, with customary anonymity, said Britain responded to the Vatican appeal, but would disclose details. Human rights groups

condemned the Vatican's intervention. "Pinochet has been

indicted many times for crimes against humanity, so how can the Pope defend a person like that?" said Carlos Reyes, president of the Londonanti-Pinochet Chile Democrabased atonb

## British balloonists awaiting jet stream

adventurers were Friday hovering over the Sahara desert waiting for a jet stream to take them toward India and closer to their bid to be the first to circle the world nonstop in a balloon.

Pilots Colin Prescot and Andy Elson were travelling at a speed of 32 kph at an altitude of about 5,450 metres. They passed over southern Morocco and the western Sahara Thursday night, their flight headquarters in London said.

"We have had a surprisingly good flight so far." Elson said by radio Thursday. "We're both relaxed and enjoying the splendid African views."

The team's headquarters in London said the pair might have to wait until Saturday morning to pick up the jet stream, which would increase the balloon's height and speed.

The balloonists have already covered some 965 kilometres in their 200-foot craft since taking off

LONDON (AP) - Two British Wednesday morning from a golf course launch pad near Almeria in southern Spain. The only problem has been a leaking top hatch, which was resealed, said Ian Ashpole at the London headquar-

If all goes well, a successful touchdown could come in the North Sea or in the Mediterranean in the next two to three weeks. The balloon has been adapted to carry three tonnes of extra fuel which the crew hope could keep them afloat for up to 30 days, giving them time to use the slower low altitude

Elson, 45. and Prescot, 48. say they have planned a route that will allow them to avoid flying over

Circumnavigating the globe nonstop in a balloon is one of the last great challenges facing avia-

The Anheuser-Busch Company reforms and opens its society with Western incentives, it will is offering a \$1 million prize to the become a country like China

## South Korean president supports 'incentives' for North Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) and Vietnam," Kim told the South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung said Friday that the United States and other Western countries should offer "incentives" to encourage North Korea to make Chinesestyle reforms and stop making

weapons of mass destruction. "We must tell North Korea that we'll give them incentives if they cooperate," Kinn said during a meeting with a group of South Korean legislators returning from a visit to the

During their visit to Washington last week, the officials, led by former foreign minister Park Jung-Soo, met

Congressmen to discuss, among other things, security on the Korean peninsula. "If North Korea makes parliamentary delegates. Kim said that North Korea, facing an acute food shortage, has no choice but to change. However, he said the isolated Communist country can change faster when encouraged by economic and other

"If we spend too much time and drag on this, the situation will be only beneficial to them, because there is no opposition party or public opinion in North Korea," he said.

Since taking office a year ago, Kim has been pushing a

"sunshine policy" of greater economic and diplomatic engagement with North As a direct product of Kim's policy, a South Korean conglomerate started unprece-

dented sightseeing tours of a

scenic North Korean mountain

last November. So far. 26,000

South Koreans have visited the North on the tours.

In what appeared to be a peace gesture early this month, North Korea expressed willingness to start talking with South Korea for the first time in many years. "North Korea at first sus-

pected our intentions but they have been changing slowly to the extent where they now say they are willing to talk with us," Kim said. Quoting reports from his

national security adviser, Lim Dong-Won, Kim said the U.S.. Japan and China have expressed full support for his engagement policy with North

Lim visited the three countries earlier this month to seek support for Kim's proposal that the allies deal with all issues involving North Korea as a package, rather than indi-

Kim's proposal would lump North Korea's missile and nuclear programmes together as a single issue. They are now the subject of separate negotiations.

"Dealing with North Korea each time when its nuclear. missile and other problems arise is only advantageous to them." Kim said. "So, I have proposed to resolve all issues in a package." The president said he believes that there are moderates in North Korea who support a compromise with the West to resolve the country's chronic food shortage and other economic problems.

The South Korean parliamentary delegates told Kim that at least two U.S. Democrat Senators - Robert Torricelli from New Jersey and Dianne Feinstein from California - plan to visit North Korea sometime later A US consu the folio

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Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov (left) waves as German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder smiles after their talks. Commenting on discussions held in the framework of the Russia-EU summit, Primakov said Friday that 'the discussions were very useful,' ITAR-TASS news agency reported (Reuters photo)

## Russian, German leaders discuss possible World War II compensation

MOSCOW (AP) - Russian President Boris Yeltsin Friday asked German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder to consider financial compensation for Russian survivors of Nazi concentration camps in World War II.

Schroeder agreed to raise the issue in Germany, but the two leaders gave somewhat different accounts of their Kremlin meeting, the second in two days.

"For the first time we spoke with the chancellor about compensation to war veterans who had been in Nazi concentration camps and involved in forced labour." Yeltsin said.

"We seriously talked about this, about how to compensate them (and Schroeder) dating to World War II. promised, on the state level,

to definitively solve this

Schroeder. meanwhile. indicated that any possible compensation would come from private firms that used forced labour, and not the German state.

"We made clear that this topic is closed in terms of the government Schroeder said. "If there are legitimate

addressed to the fund which will be set up by the compa-\_nies (involved). Russia and Germany have generally good relations, and

Throughout his presidency,

Yeltsin has sought closer relations with Germany as part of an effort to further integrate Russia into western Europe, and he said he was pleased with Schroeder's response.

The German leadership "is not just ready to maintain the pace of cooperation gained in past years, but wants to give it a new impetus." Yeltsin said.

For his part. Schroeder said that Germany was willing to back Russia in its dealings claims, they have to be with international financial institutions. The impoverished Russian

nomic crisis six months ago.

government badly wants foreign loans to help it pay off a and Schroeder mountain of domestic and appeared to get along well, foreign debts, but lenders have frozen most loans since though the two countries still have some unresolved issues the country was hit by an eco-

restructuring Soviet-era debt of around 6.5 billion German marks (\$3.7

billion). The sum is relatively small compared to Russia's total foreign debt of about \$150 billion, but it is a sign that Western countries are preparing to seek solutions to Russia's huge debts, which the country cannot afford to repay on time.

Yeltsin has been spending most of his time at a country home recuperating from illnesses in recent months, but sounded firm and appeared to be in reasonable health during his Kremlin appearances Thursday and Friday.

Yeltsin, 68, spent weeks in a hospital with a German officials have said bleeding ulcer last month.

## **East Timor resistance** leader calls for U.N. forces

HONG KONG (R) — East recent days that Lisbon Timor resistance leader would bankroll a U.N. oper-Jose Ramos-Horta said Friday that the United Nations should help supervise the strife-torn region for three to five years before it became independent from Indonesia.

To reassure any parties worried about East Timor, we will feel free to bring in the United Nations to run a transition administration for a minimum three to five years," he told a news conference.

In a surprise move, Indonesia said last month that it would consider independence for the mainly Roman Catholic territory if the Timorese rejected an autonomy plan.

Indonesia invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975 and then annexed it. An estimated 200,000 Timorese died in fighting or ensuing disease and famine. Ramos-Horta, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in said Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres had assured him in

ation in Timor.

He said Britain had sent a letter two days ago to guerrilla chief Xanana Gusmao saying London was willing to contribute troops and funds for a U.N. peacekeep-

ing force:

Indonesia Gusmao, an ally of Ramos-Horta, to house arrest in Jakarta this month from jail so he could play an active role in deciding the future of East Timor.

Members of the National Council for the Timorese Resistance (CNRT), of which Gusmao is leader and Ramos-Horta his deputy, have been talking with East Timorese who wanted to remain part of Indonesia to try to persuade them

towards independence. "Our dialogue with the so-called pro-integra-tionists, which is really taking place and going very well, and these kinds of policies, I believe we can really calm the situation."

"Gusmao has met quite a number of pro-integration elements and gradually they are being persuaded they have nothing to fear." he said. "I believe in the next few weeks this so-called

pro-integration moment

will fizzle out. The United Nations has also been mediating talks between Portugal and Indonesia to try to find a peaceful solution to the East Timor problem.

Ramos-Horta said the CNRT strategy was "not to jump into independence but to establish a transitional administration under U.N. sponsorship with the inclusion of countries like Portugal but especially New Zealand and Australia."

But he said the key to peace was Indonesian President B.J. Habibie honouring what Ramos-Horta said were promises to pull out all Indonesian troops from East Timor by next

If Habibie withdrew the troops by January, then Ramos-Horta said he would nominate him personally for the Nobel Peace Prize.

"In my capacity as Nobel laureate, who can nominate others for the Nobel Peace Prize, I will nominate Habibie as long as he gets his troops, (and) his lazv. incompetent, corrupt civil servants out of East Timor by January 2000," he said.

Ramos-Horta acknowledged that bringing democ-

racy and human rights to

East Timor after 23 years of strife would be tough. "It is going to be an uphill battle to promote a culture of democracy, a culture of human rights in our society and there is no way out

from that," he said. One of the worst legacies of Indonesian rule was a web of corruption which would have to be cleaned out if the territory wanted to gain world respect, he said.

"The world community will forgive us for not having too many competent individuals running the country but one thing they will not forgive is if we have corruption," he said.

## 'U.S., others neglecting drugs war duties'

SINGAPORE (R) Myanmar's Foreign Minister Win Aung accused the United States and many European nations Friday of neglecting their role in battling drugs by boycotting an anti-narcotics Interpol meeting to be held in

Yangon. "By not coming and participating in (the meeting) they are neglecting their responsibilities... humankind," Win Aung told Reuters in an interview. We are doing this not for the public relations, we are

doing it with the collabora-

against the menace of the drug trade," he said. The United States said

tion of Interpol to fight

last week it would not attend the meeting because it believed Myanmar's military government might use the event to give a false impression of its drug suppression efforts. Britain, France, Netherlands, Denmark and

United States in boycotting the conference, scheduled for Feb 23-26

Australia, China, Japan

Norway have joined the

Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Switzerland and Thailand, among others, have said they will attend the meet-

Many diplomats have been shocked by Interpol's choice of venue for the conference as Myanmar is one of the world's leading producers of heroin.

Washington Yangon's counter-narcotics efforts were improving but remained "far from what is necessary."

Overseas officials working to stem a flood of drugs from Myanmar's refineries have expressed doubts about the government's commitment to wiping out the narcotics industry in the country.

Win Aung, in Singapore on a four-nation tour of southeast Asia, Myanmar was serious about eradicating drugs and would destroy all poppy plantations by 2014.

"We are seriously doing this, we have the political will to do that, we have strong determination to do that. We are achieving this gradually," he said.

### **CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**

Save the Children Federation — U.S. (SCF) is an international NGO working in 39 countries around the world. SC has been working in Jordan for the past 15 years, creating such renowned projects as the Ban Hamida Women's Weaving Programme, Jordan River Designs and the Group Guaranteed Lending and

Recently, Save the Children has developed an exciting new programme — Economic Opportunities for Jordanian Youth EOJY. The goal of the programme is to build the knowledge, skills and attitudes of youth so that they can succeed in the workforce as either employees or entrepreneurs. At the same time, the programme will focus on building a facilitative environment for youth to both acquire these skills and to utilise them. In implementing the EOJY Programme, SC will partner with private sector leaders, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and UNRWA.

Anticipating significant donor funding for this programme, SC is accepting CVs for the following positions

### **Senior Management**

 Training Coordinator: (>60% field time) Responsible for overseeing and conducting volunteer and staff training. Also will be responsible for overseeing expansion into schools and will supervise district teams. This position will work closely with the Evaluation and Reporting Officer. Significant supervision skill needed and

practical training experience — using participatory training methods — is a must. • External Liaison Coordinator: (>60% field time) Responsible for public relations, fund-raising, coordination of special events and banquets as well as media campaigns. This position requires excellent communication skills with 3-5 years experience in fund-raising or marketing. Significant NGO or private

• Evaluation/Reporting Coordinator: (>20% field time) Responsible for developing and implementing, monitoring and evaluating systems at all levels.. student/volunteer/curriculum/programme. Also responsible for all reporting and programme documentation. This position requires significant experience in designing and implementing evaluation systems as well computerised MIS. This position also requires excellent English writing skills.

 Methodology Coordinator: (>20% field time) Responsible for developing, testing and documenting programme materials and curriculum. This position requires extensive education experience with good knowledge of participatory methodologies. Excellent Arabic/English writing and translating skills required.

• Institutional Development Coordinator: (>50% field time) Responsible for liaising with government partners to plan, implement, organise and design workshops, training and seminars. Also responsible for identifying, and fostering linkages between the EOJY programme and other youth programmes in Jordan. This position requires some training background and significant experience in developing relations with government and non-government partners.

### Support Staff

 Administrative Assistant: Responsible for providing logistical support for the Amman-based staff and for creating and maintaining the filing systems for the programme. Also will assist in maintaining and developing administration and procurement procedures. A minimum 3 years experience as an administration assistant or executive secretary required.

 Accountant Responsible for the daily financial work of EOJY programme as well as assisting in the development of cost recovery mechanisms. Good knowledge of accounting principles and Excel is needed

 Computer Specialist: Responsible for all programme hardware and software support. Also responsible for developing different data bases for programme use. This position will also install the LAN system and coordinate the Internet Web page development and updating. 3-5 years working experience in computer

hardware and software support and development. All positions noted above are Amman-based. In addition to the criteria above, all staff must be dynamic, responsible, self-starters and should possess good English writing/speaking skills as well as good computer skills.

Interested applicants should send their CVs by mail to the Personnel Director, P.O. Box 9363, Jabal Weibdeh Amman 11191 or fax to 4612 902. Detailed job descriptions will be available at the Save the Children office on Jebal Weibdeh after February 24. No personal appointments will be made or accepted at this time. Applicants should indicate on their cover letter no more than 2 positions for which they are interested and should indicate if they are not interested in being considered for other positions.

A US consulting firm in Amman, Jordan is seeking for the following positions to begin as soon as possible.

1. Public Relations Writer / Translator Create a variety of written materials in support of a communications program, in both Arabic and

- English, including press releases, brochures, fact sheets, op-eds; - Translate documents related to communications and training activities from English to Arabic, and
- Participate in the planning and execution of both public and government communications activities.
- with the following qualifications: - Excellent English and Arabic verbal and writing skills. - Knowledge in economic, business, and international trade issue preferable.
  - University degree, preference to communications or relevant field. - 4 years experience in public relations or journalism. - Excellent knowledge of computer programs including Microsoft Word , Excel, Quatro Pro and

2. Training Assistant - Assist the Public Awareness and Training Manager in broad range of tasks associated with training Programs,

preparation/organization of training activities. Assist in developing training program plans. Prepare periodic reports on training events, funding, results, effectiveness.

with the following qualifications: - Excellent written and spoken English and Arabic - University degree, preference to communications or relevant field. 4 years experience in training activities. - Excellent knowledge of computer programs including Microsoft Word, Excel, Quattro Pro and Corel Word

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- Provide full secretarial and word-processing services in English and Arabic.

- Filing, distributing of mail. - Provide receptionist when required. - Ability to work independently and to effectively use computer software including Microsoft Word, Excel, Quattro Pro and Corel Word Perfect.

with the following qualifications: - Excellent written and spoken English and Arabic. - At least 5 years of experience directly related to the duties and responsibilities listed above.

4. Driver

- Drive vehicles daily as assigned by supervisor.

- Check vehicles weekly to ensure that they are operational and safe to drive. - Initiate and supervise any repairs required to the vehicles.

with the following qualifications: - Valid Driving licence/good driving record and understanding of auto mechanics is required.

- Minimum of primary schooling knowledge. Excellent English verbal and writing skills.

Please send CV and cover letter by fax to: 560-3599 Dead line for receipt of applications. 28/2/1999

Chairman of the Board of Directors Abdel Salam Tarawneh

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### For better life

THE CUSTOMS Department is on the right course by seeking to reverse a recent decision to apply levies on car safety features. These comprise safety belts, advanced brake systems, catalysers, child harnesses and other devices that improve driving safety. Such additions to vehicles are certainly not luxury items to require punitive taxes but are basics which many countries more concerned about road safety view as essentials before any automobile is licensed.

Here we reiterate the perhaps equally important need to develop a coherent national policy on the use of unleaded fuel. Many countries have phased out leaded gasoline and introduced the unleaded kind on a massive scale because they put a higher premium on human life. The health factor is too obvious to be ignored. Jordan is at least 10 years behind other countries in this regard.

It has been scientifically proven that lead from car fumes enters human bodies, food items, livestock and vegetation and causes untold health problems. Countries that value the environment do not license cars unless they are equipped with catalysers to stop the pollution of the atmosphere with carcinogenic elements that get into the human blood stream either directly or indirectly.

Official statistics show that Jordan has one of the highest rates of traffic accidents in the world, increasing at the rate of 10 per cent annually. We need to work in earnest to reverse the tide of road mayhem on our streets and highways by making cars safer to drive and less dangerous to pedestrians. All safety features were exempted from customs in 1996. But that decision was reversed silently a month ago. His Majesty King Hussein's last public letter was full of references to environmental issues and the urgent need to prevent pollution, in order to protect the ozone. King Hussein died from cancer and wanted us to do whatever we can to combat the disease in all its forms. Why not then stop licensing cars which pollute our atmosphere and spread the disease in our midst? This is the least that we can do to honour the life and achievements of the late King.

### **ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES**

Al Ra'i's Fahed Fanek said public opinion in Jordan is unenthusiastic about the country's privatisation programme. adding that while some parties opposing the plan have legitimate fears, others are being irrational. Although the negative attitude by the public might be responsible for the slow implementation of privatisation, the real obstacle facing the programme is giving too much attention to such resistance to the issue. Fanek said. When the government was decisive in privatising for instance the Jordan Inter.Continental Hotel and the Jordan Cement Factories Company, opponents used to express their discomfort but let the process go on, he noted. But the privatisation of the Jordan Telecommunications Company has been aborted as a result of hesitation, said Fanek, which allowed resistance. The government, economic team and the privatisation unit must make serious efforts to change public opinion or at least neutralise people who do not have a personal stake in resisting the scheme, said Fanek.

Al Ra'i's Khairallah Khairallah commented on the recent arrest of Kurdish Labour Party Leader Abdullah Ocalan. Khairallah said that although Turkey is celebrating now, its joy might not last long because after days or weeks it will become obvious that the arrest will not solve the Kurdish problem, regardless of Ocalan's crimes. The country will soon realise that the underlying cause of the problem has not disappeared, and that the arrest will not provide a fundamental solution to the problem of the Kurds and their cause, which needs a political solution, he added. Of course, Ocalan can be blamed for not cooperating with the former Turkish president. who wanted to solve the problem, and for his "fatal" actions now. No doubt, the arrest is almost a victory for the so-called New World Order, which does not allow any country to harbour people who are wanted by other countries, especially with clear U.S. backing for such measures, said Khairllah, but added that this does not mean that Turkey has solved its internal problems.

## Turkey — not Ocalan — on trial

THE TURKISH government has reasons to celebrate the capture of Kurdish dissident leader Abdullah Ocalan, So does Bulent Ecevit, the caretaker prime minister, who stands to reap the benefits of the capture in general elections scheduled to be held in April.

The arrest of Ocalan, the burly leader of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), is a source of national pride for the Turkish security forces, which have been fighting a bitter war with PKK guerrillas for more than 10 years. Indeed, Ankara hopes that a high-profile trial and possible death sentence for Ocalan will deal a severe blow to Kurdish nationalism in Turkey. By extension, the Ecevit government is also trying to use the Ocalan capture as a message of toughness to the country's never-say-die Islamists.

Turkish newspapers are full of praise for the government operation which brought Ocalan to Turkey in handcuffs, a promise that the government had made two months ago when the PKK leader emerged from hiding and sought political asylum in Italy.

Wednesday were days of joy and mount to recognising the legitima-

celebrations for Turks. Or were cy of the Kurdish struggle. they, really?

Of course, for all those Turks who do not want to acknowledge their government's treatment of the Kurds, the capture of Ocalan was a great and happy event because the PKK leader is painted in the mainstream Turkish media as a bloodthirsty, ruthless killer who stops at nothing. But the capture of Ocalan is a most distressing and humiliat-

ing event for the Kurds of Turkey. After all, there are eight million Kurds in the Turkish population. For a majority them, Ocalan represents their aspirations to preserve their Kurdish identity and the right to live in dignity. But the Kurdish dreams are anathema to the Ankara government, which has repeatedly turned down calls for peace talks from Ocalan and other PKK leaders which could produce a way out of the quagmire.

On several occasions, the Turkish government, which describes Ocalan and his PKK supporters as terrorists, has rejected ceasefires called by Ocalan. Acknowledging and accepting such truces, accord-In general. Tuesday and ing to Ankara's thinking, is tantaThe history of the Kurds is a

litany of struggle, hopes, unkept promises and oppression, whether in Turkey, Iran or Iraq (incidentally, the central government in Iraq treated fraqi Kurds much better than its neighbours; they were allowed the use of their language in education and permitted to set up their own largely autonomous administration in northern Iraq. because Baghdad had accepted that the Kurdish aspirations could not be put down militarily. Of course that is not to overlook the heinous assaults the Iraqi army mounted on Kurdish villagers at the end of the Iraq-Iran war. The pretext was that Kurds living on the border with Iran were a security risk for the country. Although there can be no justification for the attacks which killed thousands of Kurds, many experts in the region do acknowledge that it was largely an isolated

Ocalan is no innocent. His forces have killed Turkish soldiers, socalled village guards and civilians in the Kurdish heartland of Turkey. According to Ankara, he could be held responsible for the death of

Jordanian **Perspective** 



Dr. Musa Keilani

29,000 people, a figure which, by any account, cannot be pinned on the PKK alone.

The "scorched earth" and "ironfist" policies of the Turkish military are known to the outside world. At one point, German-supplied equipment and weapons were used in the army's bartle against the Kurds, prompting the German government to suspend arms supolies to Turkey.

Turkey's human rights record, particularly the army's treatment of Kurds, has come under severe crit-

icism in Europe, but Ankara has defiantly rejected all censure asserting that it was battling to maintain the unity of the country. Indeed that is a position that should be respected by the international community because it falls within the realm of sovereignty.

By Roger Cohen

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But the brutality with which the Turkish government deals with the Kurds and the accompanying repercussions among Kurdish communities living abroad definitely push the issue beyond the border of Turkey.

One could also wonder why the U.S. imposed the so-called "nofly" zones to "protect" Iraqi Kurds in the north of Iraq and Shiites in the south and is largely silent when it comes to Turkish Kurds. But then of course, that reflects the reality of double standards in the region, and, for the moment, it seems it is here

International eyes are focused on Turkey to see if Ocalan is treated fairly and justly. For all practical purposes, it is Ocalan who is going to be tried in a Turkish court, but it is actually Turkey and its approach to the Kurds that are going to be on

## All lose in week of 'geek' diplomacy

EVER HAD a bad week? If so, you may be in a position to appreciate the past week that a number of oppressed ethnic minorities, Mediterranean countries, and embassies located in Europe have had to live through. Following the capture of PKK chief Abdullah Ocalan, all hell, as the saying goes, broke loose. Diplomatic missions were stormed by the dozen all over the world, riot police and Kurdish protesters fought disrupting pitched battles in major cities, government ministers were fired left and right, and a cameraman for the Turkish intelligence services got plenty of evident-ly needed practice with his camcorder filming Ocalan in a number of venues and poses. Usually, in such situations, at least one of the involved parties manages to rise above the chaos and come out a winner. But this time, in a testimony to the ineptness of all groups connected with the Ocalan affair, everyone came out a loser.

The Kurds so far have been the ones who have endured the most since Ocalan was abducted. Not only had the leader of their movement been captured, he had also been shown repeatedly humiliated (and humiliating himself) in the videotape of his capture broadcast on Turkish TV. It must have been difficult for Kurdish protesters to shout anti-Turkey slogans one moment. then in the next see Ocalan, who launched the PKK's armed struggle that has claimed over 30,000 lives, explaining how he wants to serve the Turkish people, whom he "loves." It seems that guerrilla leaders have slipped a notch or two in the defiance department since the days of Mao and Ho Chi Minh.

Worse developments, however, were yet to come. The Kurdish demonstrators' occupation of virtually every Greek embassy and consulate in Europe was, for the most part, peaceful (i.e., no deaths and/or grievous bodily harm), if somewhat rowdy. After a group of Kurds entered the headquarters of a Swiss socialist party, a party spokesperson described the protesters as "guests" and said the action was a "democratic means" of expression. British police allowed a group to take over a busy intersection for an entire night, before persuading them to continue their protest on a less busy street. Even hostage situations were

peacefully resolved through negotiations. But then a group of Kurdish protesters picked the wrong mission to occupy in Berlin, a mistake that would cost three lives. These deaths happened at none other than, not surprisingly, the Israeli consulate. Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu, explaining how the only Kurdish action of this kind that turned deadly, said the shootings were necessary to protect Israeli "property." This statement may sound callous and shocking, but remember, it was the Israeli consulate. Perhaps the guards at the mission that day were on vacation from south Lebanon or the occupied territories and let the fact slip their minds.

After the Kurds, the next biggest losers were the Greeks. In a brilliant demonstration of how trying to please everyone results in pleasing no one, the Greeks managed to shoot themselves in both feet by angering both the Kurds and the Turks. Kurdish anger at Greece for allowing Ocalan to fall into Turkish hands was manifested in the mass embassy occupations. which resulted in costly material damage. and the threat of more violent actions, such as possible bombings. Turkey, for its part, was incensed that arch-rival Greece had lied to it about harbouring its most wanted fugitive, and used the episode to undermine Greek claims that it had never supported the PKK, regarded by many Western governments as a terrorist organisation. Several ministers have already gotten the boot, the prime minister himself is under fire, and the entire country has been shamed by losing out on something it should not have even become involved in. One can imagine that other governments in the future, when involved in a diplomatic blunder, may be described as engaging in a bit of "Greek diplomacy." This, in turn, would lend itself to the following punchline: "Greek diplo-

macy is geek diplomacy." Finally, we come to the only party that should have benefitted from the arrest of Ocalan: Turkey. On the surface, everything looks rosy: Public Enemy Number I is behind bars, the fractious spectrum of Turkish politics has united, albeit briefly in most likelihood, and Greece has been humiliated. But this victory may become bittersweet. What will happen when the **Out of Order** 



**Brian Brown** 

trial of Ocalan gets under way? The eyes of the whole world, and Europe especially, will be on Turkey to see if the country continues its dismal record of justice and human rights in Kurdish-related affairs. The trial could finally close the book on Turkey's dream of joining the EU, especially if a death sentence is handed down. if, on the other hand, the trial is fair and open, and Ocalan develops a spine before then, the truth and facts of the Kurdish problem in Turkey may reach a world audience, something that would not be to the benefit of either party, considering the questionable actions of both the PKK and the Turkish army in the now 14-year conflict. Turkey, however, as an established government, stands to lose more than the PKK if any disagreeable revelations result from the trial.

One bad week is over. But with the questions which the Ocalan affair has raised, and which no one seems too intent on answering, there promises to be many more bad weeks in the future.

RECOMMENDED READING: The Foundation Trilogy, by Isaac Asimov. This three-book series tells the stary of the collapse of an ancient intergalactic empire and its successor, which has been planned by a group of innocent-looking scientists to be a more lasting and fairer establishment. Written in the late 1950s by one of the acknowledged science fiction masters, The Foundation Trilogy still stands as a fascinating story of empires in the distant future as well as a commentary on the repeating cycles of history.

## Kurds dominate column inches

Compiled by Mohammad Ben Hussein

Columnists last week commented on Abdullah Ocalan's arrest. Iraq threats to attack American bases in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey and the confederation between Jordan and the PNA areas.

Al Dustour's Oreib Rintawi slammed Turkey for arresting the Kurdish rebels leader Abdullah Ocalan saving that Ocalan's arrest or even the killing of the rebel leader will not end the Kurdish Turkish-Kurdish war has war has cost

around \$100 billion and claimed around 30,000 lives both

Turkey

said sides, the writer. Rintawi charged that Turkey's bid to solve the problem by Kurds are seeking ethnic and cultural recognition. The Kurdish demands are legitimate and should not be faced with violence and anger, said the writer. Only through diplomatic channels and a negotiated settlement can an end be put to the war, said the writer, and then only if Turkey grants the Kurds linguistic and cultural freedom. recognition as a separate people and a measure of autonomy. It is true that Turkey was able to crack down on Kurdish rebels in the southern part of the country and follow them inside Iraq's borders, but Ocalan's case has proved that military success is not the end of the problem since the Kurds have been able to manifest their presence throughout Europe and even inside Turkey, noted the writer. Ocalan was arrested. but the Kurdish people are far from the Turkish prisons, and though Ocalan and his party may be defeated, the

Al Dustour's Yaqoub Jabre said whether Turkey executes Abdullah Ocalan or not, his cause will be alive as long as there are oppressed Kurds suffering under severe economic and social conditions. For millions of Kurds. Ocalan is only a symbol of the revolution and if this flame is put out, it will not be the end of the Kurdish cause. said Jabre. From now on Turkey must expect more violence and bloody war. and judging by Kurdish reactions after Ocalan's arrest proves the Kurdish determination to continue their struggle with or without him. said Jabre. Turkey should understand that the only solution to the Kurdish prob-

Kurdish problem will remain

for as long as Kurds exist

and Turkish ethnic discrimi-

nation continues, concluded

the writer.

lem is through dialogue; Ocalan has repeatedly announced his willingness to negotiate with Ankara and abandon the armed struggle. added the writer.

Al Ra'i's Mahmoud Rimawi criticised Iraq for threatening to attack American bases in the Gulf and Turkey. Such threats, he said, will only complicate Iraq's situation: the conflict is between Baghdad and Washington not Iraq and its neighbours. Turkey cannot prevent U.S. and British forces from using is airbases because it is a member of NATO. Saudi Arabia and

Kuwait both have a military agreement with the United States after Iraq's invasion Kuwait in 1991. Iraq needs good rela-

tions with its Arab

neighbours, which raising living standards is should be based on trust as doomed to fail because the well as forgiveness, said well as forgiveness, said Rimawi. Such Arab understanding, if it occurs, might not stop the American strikes immediately, but if differences between Baghdad and Kuwait are overcome, it could lead to a better solution, added Rimawi, An agreement will lead to the long-awaited Arab general summit which will bring Arabs back together, said Rimawi Iraq might be excused for losing patience. after repeated air strikes and eight years of crippling sanctions, but still duty obliges it to find a proper way out of its plight with its neighbours and the West, and not complicating matters with meaningless threats, added the writer. And the best way for Iraq to salvage its people from their suffering is through Arab understanding which will only be forthcoming if Iraq manages to gain Arab, and especially Gulf countries, trust, he conclud-

> Al Ra'i's Tareq Massarwah said confederation between Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority areas which had been suggested by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will not help Palestinians gain their own identity, and will also severe ly harm Jordan. Everyone knows how much the Palestinians are suffering, said the writer, but such an idea will not accommodate Palestinian desire to have a secure, independent state recognised by the world at large nor end Israeli occupa-tion of Arab, land. Confederation will not provide the Palestinians with freedom while it is under Israeli occupation, said the writer. No one in Jordan will abandon the Palestinians, but at the same time Jordan's strategic depth lies with Syria and Iraq not Israel, said Massarwah.

#### Footnote - Waleed M. Sadi

BAGHDAD HAS increasingly been flexing its muscles lately and issuing renewed threats not only to shoot down U.S. and British warplanes flying over the no-fly zones, but also to strike at military bases in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. The Russian connection seems all too clear in this confident Iraqi display.

Reports from Moscow and Baghdad indicate that the two countries have recently struck a new multi-million dollar arms deal to upgrade Iraq's air defences, which could restore the Arab country's air force and anti-aircraft batteries to their pre-Gulf war levels. Earlier repors speak of Russian reparation of Iraq's communication networks destroyed by the U.S. air strikes. Moscow set the stage for this Russian-Iraqi cooperation when it too joined the

chorus of international voices questioning the legitimacy of the no-fly zones imposed on Iraq and condemning air strikes. Moscow spearheaded the campaign against Richard Butler and UNSCOM. Without this Russian connection. Iraq could not and would not show so much confidence in confronting the U.S. and

The question that may haunt Baghdad is whether the Russian Federation is prepared to bargain away this Iraqi alliance for the sake of a bigger stake, leaving Iraq stranded. In other words, is the Russian-Iraqi connection a mere ploy to attain other strategic interests or a bridgehead for Moscow's strategic interests in the Gulf region?

### Letters of condolence

THE FORMER students of Victoria College. Egypt, mourn one of their own. His Majesty King Hussein Ben

On behalf of all the former students, we extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy to the people of Jordan and to the family of his gracious Majesty.

The world mourns his tragic passing, a world that was much brighter with his presence. We pray for God's blessing on his soul.

Classes of '42, '44, '45, '46, '47, 49, '50, '51, '52, '53, '54, '55, '56, '57, '62 Victoria College

I WANT to pass along my deepest sympathy to the people of Jordan and to the family of His Majesty King Hussein. He was a great man and will deeply be missed by the world as a man of peace and deep wisdom. My prayers are with HM King Abdullah as he assumes the leadership of Jordan. In the six weeks I was there, I came to love the country and the people of Jordan, and share in the deep grief of the death of HM King Hussein.

Lieutenant Colonel James(Jim) Drinnon

WE WERE sad to hear of the death of King Hussein. Please extend our condolences to the Royal family and the people of Jordan.

We lived in Jordan from 1982-86 and that was one of the happiest times in our lives. Our son was born there and the hospitality and warmth of the people of Jordan gave us a feeling of well-being, contentment and security.

The charm, and aura of kindness and sincerity emitted by King Hussein deeply attached us to him. Our son saw him as "My King." We wish his successor, King Abdullah, the wisdom, courage and strength to continue his father's aim of maintaining peace, prosperity and contentment for his people. We hope he can achieve an harmonious relationship with all the neighbouring countries in the Middle East.

> The Nass family, Falkenstein Germany.

I WOULD like to extend my heartfelt condolences to the Royal family and the people of Jordan, on the loss of His Majesty King Hussein. May you rest in peace Your Majesty.

Samer HL Petro

SHIP AHOY!

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## **Features**

## Arrest unites Europe's Kurds in indignation

By Roger Cohen

FOR A decade. Kurds have been coming to Germany seeking political asylum, and on Thursday one of them, Amin Aram, walked into the Kurdish Community Center here, took a tea from a friend and declared, "Every one of us, without exception, is апргу.

A window cleaner, Aram, 31, is one of 210,000 Kurds who have come here since 1989, fleeing various forms of violence. Unlike Abdullah Ocalan, the Kurdish rebel leader arrested by Turkish agents on Monday, he is from Iraq, not Turkey. He says that he is no supporter of Ocalan's Kurdish Labour Party.

Such political divisions have long undermined the scattered Kurds in their battle for a homeland. But for the overwhelming majority of the estimated 850,000 Kurds now living in Europe, Ocalan's arrest constitutes a moment when differences are swept away, however fleetingly, by a shared sense of outrage.

The American government says Ocalan is a terrorist," Aram said. "But my family was called 'terrorists' by Saddam Hussein just because we are Kurds. Then he killed my mother, three brothers and two sisters in a chemical-weapons attack on the town of Halabja. Whatever group we are from, we cannot accept Ocalan's

Long focused on the problems arising from the fight for new nation-states in the Balkans. European governments have abruptly awakened this week to another conflict in their midst, one quietly fed over many years by a fastgrowing Kurdish diaspora in Europe, which this week revealed an ability to organise, communicate and act.

Even as Kurds on Thursday ended a three-day occupation of the Greek embassy in London and protests in most abated, remained high.

In Germany, where three Kurds were killed by Israeli security guards on Wednesday as they tried to enter Israel's Berlin consulate, Kurdish protesters hurled gasoline bombs on Thursday through the windows of a Turkish cultural centre in Heilbronn and attacked visitors with baseball bats. Three people were injured.

Elsewhere, gasoline bombs were thrown at two Turkish travel agencies in the port of Bremen, Germany, and Kurdish protesters forced their way into the regional U.N. headquarters in Vienna, Aus-

Conversations with Kurds in several European countries suggest that the broad show of defiance this week reflected developments likely to weigh on the continent for some time: the growing sophistication of Ocalan's movement, which has waged a separatist interior and public order resigned as public criticism raged over the country's role in the arrest of Ocalan. And Kenya, where Ocalan was seized after leaving the Greek embassy in Nairobi, also reshuffled its cabinet.

The arrest followed several months of detention and flight in Italy, Russia, Greece and elsewhere - a fugitive existence for Ocalan that, it now seems, provided a kind of slow-motion prologue to the

important base for U.S. air patrols over Iraq.

Nezan suggested that an effect of U.S. policy and European governments' acquiescence to it had been to drive moderate Kurds toward sympathy for Ocalan's violent movement. Kurds, he added, had become convinced that the strategic importance of Turkey to the United States was such that no Kurdish claims would ever be recognised, let alone backed, in Washington.

educate their children in their own language. A ban imposed by Turkey's last military govemment on the use of the Kurdish language in unofficial settings was lifted in 1991, but Kurdish remains illegal in broadcasts or in educational or political settings, and there is a campaign under way to ban Turkey's main pro-Kurdish

Turks and Kurds have exchanged arrocities in recent years as Turkey tries to eradicate any Kurdish drive for autonomy or independence.

Faced by the explosive complexity of recognizing any Kurdish claims, the frequent ruthlessness of Ocalan's methods and the importance of Turkey as a NATÔ ally, Westem governments have generally preferred to look the other way, accepting Kurdish refugees as a bearable price.

Nowhere has that stream of refugees been more intense than in Germany, which has Europe's most liberal asylum laws. Indeed, with more than 2 million Turks and about 500,000 Kurds now in the country, the potential for further violence here is evident.

Ciwan Bahoz, a member of the Kurdish Association for Culture and Mutual Support, said that, like most Kurds in Germany, he rejected Ocalan's violent methods. But at the same time he felt enraged by

the way Ocalan was treated. "Although I reject force, I somehow understand what the protesters feel," he said. Ocalan has been humiliated. Europe now has to understand that if it does not want Kurdish problems settled on its streets, it must see that its NATO partner, Turkey, complies with rules that govern any democratic country.

Like several other Kurds, Bahoz said it would have been far better if Germany had agreed to try Ocalan, because at least he would have been assured a fair trial. The German government declined to request his extradition from Italy to face various charges because of fear of the potentially explosive domestic con-

German officials said that the influence of the Kurdish Labour Party had clearly been growing and that many of the cultural and other associations in this country were merely fronts for the organisation. Fund-raising — involving pressure on Kurdish stores and businesses — was brisk and efficient, they said.

"The Workers Party was once quite marginal," said Barbara John, Berlin's commissioner for the affairs of foreigners, "But the various Kurdish associations have gradually been drawn toward it. I would not say the party is the mainstream, but it is now the undisputed representative of the fight for autonomy."

She added that by being extremely naive in its policies toward asylum seekers and by failing to recognise that the admission of hundreds of thousands of Kurds would inevitably have consequences, Germany now finds itself in a very delicate situation in which "the question of immigration and foreigners could

become really poisonous." Apparently aware of this danger of a backlash, Kurdish community leaders throughout Europe appealed on Thursday for calm. "We appeal to our compatriots to behave in a level-headed way," said a statement from the Kurdish Community in Berlin.

It is clear, however, that if level-headedness was not conspicuous in recent days, it was not merely because of spontaneous anger. Faruk Sarhat, a Paris-based member of Ocalan's movement, said the party's central committee had the means to quickly contact party cells and Kurdish cultural organisations throughout the

continent.

"Our central committee said protests should be democratic. but Ocalan is more than our party," said Sarhat, who described himself as a member of the Kurdish Labour Party although he formally represents a front organisation called the Kurdistan National Liberation Front. "The kind of anger his arrest generated cannot be controlled, especially when the role of the Israelis and Americans was so clear."

Like many Kurds, Sarhat argued that Turkey does not have the resources to swoop on Ocalan and arrest him in the

heart of Africa without assistance from other intelligence services. On Wednesday, the Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, adamantly denied any Israeli role in Ocalan's capture. The denial by the United States was less vehement.

Whatever the resources of Turkey, those of Kurdish groups in Europe are clearly considerable, including a Kurdish-language satellite televi-sion channel based in London that appears to have played an important role in spreading the word of Ocalan's arrest.

'The party is very active in the diaspora extracting money from Kurds, and the evidence of drug trafficking is also persuasive," said Ranstorp, the expert on Middle Eastern affairs. "It is a sophisticated, organised guerrilla organisa-

Evidence of Ocalan's personal influence was clear this week in the attempts at selfimmolation by several protesters. Like Ho Chi Minh, of whom he is a great admirer, Ocalan likes to be called "Uncle" ("Apo" in Kurdish), and he frequently called his followers' attention to the Vietnamese use of immolation as a method of protest, Nezan said.

But at the time of his arrest, several Kurdish officials said. he appeared to have been cast-

ing around for some kind of political or diplomatic way out of the cycle of violence. Any possibility of this now appears to have been dashed, especially if Ocalan's trial in Turkey should end in a death sentence an explosive possibility for a Europe full of disgruntled

Kurds. "I do not support the methods of the Kurdish Labour Party," said Kader Al-Yousef. a Kurdish technician in Berlin who came to Germany as a student 24 years ago from Syria, "But I cannot condemn its objective when all it does is fight for our right to a home-

- The New York Times

### JOB VACANCY

#### ACCOMMODATION OFFICER, BRITISH EMBASSY, AMMAN

Applicants should have experience in the management of accommodation, both residential and office premises, particularly in areas such as leasing, maintenance and all aspects of related financial management. Good interpersonal skills and commitment to customer care are needed, together with a high level of both written and spoken English and Arabic, and good computer skills.

> Applications should be addressed to: Management Officer **British Embassy** P.O.Box 87 Amman 11118

Envelopes should be clearly marked "Employment-Accommodation". CVs should reach the Management Officer by 4 March 1999. Interviews will be held during the week commencing 21 March. Applicants who cannot make themselves available during that week should indicate this when submitting their applications.

### COMMERCIAL VACANCIES IN THE BRITISH EMBASSY

The Commercial Section of the British Embassy requires staff to help promote British business interests in Jordan.

### COMMERCIAL OFFICER (1 POST)

This job will involve:-

identifying commercial opportunities for British companies with particular responsibility for allocated industrial/commercial sectors

delivery of a range of support services for UK exporting companies

making initiative visits to Jordanian companies

supplying market information and sector reports regularly to companies and organisations in the UK

organising and participating in commercial events

briefing business visitors

This is a senior representational position and the successful candidate will be confident, educated to University degree standard, fluent in Arabic & English (oral and written) and computer literate. He/she will have a good knowledge of business in Jordan, an ability to cultivate business contacts at senior level and a sound appreciation of international trade matters. There is a requirement for regular work outside of normal office hours, travel within Jordan and more occasionally to other countries in the Middle-East and to the UK. Car ownership is desirable (an allowance is payable).

### COMMERCIAL ASSISTANT (2 POSTS)

Post 1. Direct support for a Commercial Officer including research into specific industrial/commercial sectors, answering enquiries from British and Jordanian companies, drafting preparation and despatch of tailored market reports for companies in the UK.

Post 2. Front-line enquiry officer able to deal with the public and to answer written and telephone enquiries, provide clerical support to the whole Section and manage the Section's file store (registry and company database).

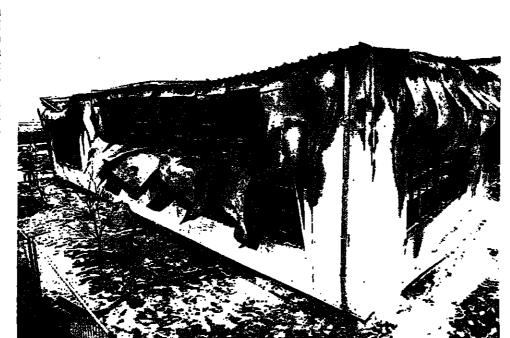
A good level of IT and Internet user skills is required for both of these positions and a very good standard of written and spoken English is essential.

Applications specifying which post you are applying for with a CV should be addressed to

The Commercial Secretary The British Embassy

P.O.Box 6062 Amman Closing date 7 March 1999

Candidates chosen for interview will be provided with a more detailed job description and conditions of service.



The burnt-out facade of a warehouse belonging to Turkish nationals in Lehrte, northern Germany, yesterday, after being destroyed by fire overnight. The blaze follows a wave of attacks on Turkish interests in Germany after the capture of Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan. No one was injured (AFP photo)

war in southeastern Turkey that has left 30,000 dead; anger stronger than any internal Kurdish differences, and the helter-skelter growth of a Kurdish population in Europe that had come to represent a large pool of restive national sentiment.

Magnus Ranstorp, an expert on Middle Eastern Affairs at St. Andrew University in Scotland, said: "The arrest of Ocalan has united the Kurdish nation.'

He added: "What European governments do not see is that in many ways the Kurdish struggle reflects the early days of the Palestinian struggle: putting an issue on the international agenda through terrorism. The situation could become more and more

inflamed." In Greece on Thursday the

current drama, fuelling the Kurds' anger and sense of abandonment. "I tried to warn Western gov-

emments this would happen," said Kendal Nezan, the chairman of the moderate Kurdish Institute of Paris, which opposes the guerrilla tactics of Ocalan's followers. "I said. 'give Ocalan asylum in exchange for a formal renunciation of violence.' But the Italian government told me there was too much diplomatic pres-

sure from America and too much economic pressure from Turkey.' The United States has defined the Kurdish Labour Party as a terrorist organisation and in recent months has persistently expressed quiet supem policies."

In Turkey, Kurds are not

to regain the land.

port for Ocalan's arrest and his handover to Turkey, which is a ministers of foreign affairs, the critical NATO ally and an

per cent are in Ocalan's movement, and some are very militant," he said. "But a lot of people don't like his methods at all. Still, in the end they are led to feel sympathy because they are so revolted by West-More than 20 million Kurds live in an area that sprawls

"Of the 850,000 Kurds in the

European Union, probably 10

across southeastern Turkey, Syria, Iran and Iraq. Of these, perhaps 10 million live in Turkey, where they had been promised a homeland in the 1920 Treaty of Sevres after the fall of the Ottoman Empire. But plans for a Kurdish homeland were dashed when Mustafa Kemal Ataturk fought

recognised as a minority, a status that would allow them to

## **The Saturday Crossword**

SHIP AHOY! By Arthur S. Verdesca, Morristown, New Jerse

84 One who makes

ready

55 Actress Phoebe

58 Light beams

59 Sea east of the
Caspian

90 Shroud of \_\_\_

91 God of war

92 Rocks

55 Come-actress

56 Officers

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100 BARK
102 CLIPPER
104 Wood trimmer
105 Poetic muse
106 Eradicate
107 Watch over
108 State of mind
109 Gaucho's address
10 Also-ran

110 Also-ran 111 Influence

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78 Alamos 79 Word with bridge

parrot 85 Fear and May, e.g.

or wagon 82 New Zealand

- 66 Milk top, once 32 Biology kingdom divisions 33 Hermit 34 Clearly detailed 70 Long-time pal 71 LINER 35 Expectant dad, 73 Pipe buildup 74 Touch agains e.g. JUNK Soothes 75 Lone in eight 7 Eight bits
  - 40 Doctrine \_ now and again
- 52 Comic Arbuckle 54 West Indian religious belief 55 Physicist Enrico 56 Shoulder warmer

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- 58 Dam 60 Edge along 62 Blooper 63 First choice of 64 Head skin 65 Shaded area 66 Supply the food 67 Some woodwind 68 Some time after 77 Rundown dwelling
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TMSPuzzies@aol.com

## Jordan, IMF broadly agree on three-year programme

By Suleiman Al Khalidi Reuters

AMMAN — Ziyad Fariz, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, said Thursday a threeyear programme with the IMF had been broadly agreed but talks would continue on a number of outstanding

Fariz declined to give details and would not say when a final draft

would be ready for pre-sentation to the IMF board in Washington. IMF officials said in Amman this week they expected the programme to be put to the board some time in March.

"The elements of the new programme have been agreed. The framework at large has been agreed upon together with the IMF." Fariz told Reuters.

"We have concluded

the initial agreement... There are no problems that obstruct the agreement with the fund," he

added. Officials said technical committees would continue in both Washington and Amman to iron out final details including the exact level of IMF assistance before the Jordanian government and the IMF finally seal the

IMF first managing director Stanley Fischer, who visited Amman last week, declined to give details on the amounts involved in the new package, which would extend a 10-year loan programme due to end this month.

The old deal gave \$331 million a year to Jordan, although after payments the country is only left with around

Jordanian officials said the new plan would give Jordan an extra \$150 million a year.

They said the new loan, tied to fiscal restraint, and economic reform, would help to bring the budget deficit down to its target of seven per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) this year against 10 per cent last year. Its main significance would be endorsement of Jordan's economic policies by the world body. The 1999 budget fore-

casts a deficit of 435 million dinars — or seven per cent of GDP - to be covered by soft loans and extra borrowing from international and domestic markets.

Officials said the new programme envisages economic growth will rise by the end of the three-year period to four per cent from a project-

ed two per cent in 1999. Jordan posted negative growth last year, the worst performance since an economic crisis in 1989, independent economists said. The government put last year's GDP growth at 2.5 per

per cent growth this year — still below rates of population growth. Fischer said the con-clusion of the IMF pro-

gramme would also help

cent and forecast three

Jordan's efforts to reschedule Paris Club debt.

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Officials hope an outpouring of global sympathy for Jordan after King Hussein's death will translate into tangible commitments of aid. already pledged by its Western and Arab friends to underpin domestic stability.

## Group of Seven to back global cooperation, but no radical reform

FRANKFURT (R) — Group of Seven (G-7) financial leaders, who will meet in Bonn Saturday to discuss the global economy, have just one concrete proposal on the table to help prevent crises like those in Asia and Rus-

The proposal, drawn up by Bundesbank President Hans Tietmeyer, foresees greater cooperation between the world's watchdog authorities and supranational institutions with the aim of nipping problems in the bud through information

G-7 sources say it is the only fresh idea on the agenda with a good chance of clear backing from the richnation group.

More radical measures, such as the creation of a global network of currency target zones to limit speculative pressures, have been brushed aside by the United States as an out-dated attempt to rein in financial marartificial by

Secretary Treasury Robert Rubin left no doubt that the United States had little sympathy for such a radical new currency regime. insisting that currency stability was the product of fundamentally sound economic poli-

cies.
"We think the way to achieve stability is through fundamental economic policy. Rubin said.

German Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine, once a vocal proponent of a new currency

regime to help dampen global financial global volatility, has since shifted his focus to the Asian currencies which plunged when crisis hit

there in 1997. But plans to limit moves there through pegging to some sort of currency basket are

still, at best, vague. The G-7 — grouping Britain. Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — has differing views on whether such a system would make sense and would have only a sideline role in the implementation of such a system anyway.
Discussions of the

world economy will play a prominent role in the talks but are not expected to produce any surprising new conclusions. Russian representatives will be present for part of the afternoon session to discuss the continuing problems there.

As things stand, the only real step forward on Saturday aside from the familiar affirmations of general cooperation, Tooks set to come from Tietmeyer's proposal — the result of a project he was assigned last October.

The Bundesbank has declined direct comment on a report this week in the French newspaper Le Monde. which quoted from a 10-page report saying Tietmeyer would propose a stability forum be set up to limit risks of economic crisis con-

tagion. Such Such a proposal, which would avoid the creation of a special new body to handle the issue. improve coordination between existing institutions, appears very likely in the view of statements Tietmeyer

has made in the past. At the International Monetary Fund (IMF) meeting in Washington last August, his railing at proposals from Britain and others that the world needed a "new financial archicontributed tecture" heavily to his being

asked to study ways to improve the old one.
"Tietmeyer is likely to strengthen the micro aspects of the current financial and banking regulation system and seek more coopera-tion...but stay away from asking for a new big institution," said Goldman Sachs senior Thomas economist

If such a forum were set up on an informal basis, it is expected that the Bretton Woods organisations — the International Monetary Fund and World Bank would participate alongside the Bank for International Settle-ments (BIS) and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and

Development. Financial regulators from major countries, possibly from some emerging countries, would also find a place at the table, with the overall number being capped at no more than about 40.

Meetings would take place on occasions when many of those involved were already present - for example on the sidelines of the World Bank and Inter-

**Peanuts** 

national Fund meetings in April and September/Octo-

ber each year. According to Le Monde, BIS chairman Andrew Crockett would head up the forum.

Currently, watchdog and surveilorganisations lance work extremely independently.

Tensions and overlaps are sometimes seen even at the World Bank and IMF despite the fact they headquartered within walking distance of each other in Washington and hold coordinated

annual meetings. At the national level, increased links between insurance companies and banks — in Germany for example — are already posing the question of the need for greater cooperation between the bodies which regulate these industries.

But even if the Tietmeyer proposal is accepted without change — it appears pre-programmed that the agreement will be marketed differently politicians across the G-7 spectrum.

Those, such as British Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, who have campaigned hardest for a "new architecture" will no doubt acclaim the forum fits the bill even if Tietmeyer himself portrays it as fine-tuning of the old one.

### Israel seeks to bolster trade ties with Jordan

TEL AVIV (R) - Israel said Thursday it was looking for ways to expand trade and investment ties with Jordan.

"We believe that in view of the untimely death of King Hussein it is more important than ever to find additional ways to bolster Jordan's economy and improve economic ties with the Kingdom," said Eli Kazhdan of Israel's trade

ministry. "We have held a series of meetings in the ministry to find additional ways to improve trade and economic relations between the countries," he added.

"We are trying to put together certain ideas to propose and discuss with our Jordanian counterparts. We hope to implement some of them in the near future," Kazhdan, a senior adviser to Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, told Reuters.

He said the proposals included lowering import tariffs, easing the flow of goods between Jordan and Palestinian-ruled areas and embarking on joint research and development projects.

"We are also looking into ways to promote trilateral omiects with the United States. This is based on discussions we have already held with U.S. officials, Kazhdan said.

Israeli-Jordanian grew last year by 25 per cent to \$40 million. Israel's manufacturers' association estimated the total value of Israeli-Jordanian joint ventures at \$300 million.

Earlier in the month, the association urged the two countries to strive to increase two-way trade to \$400 million.

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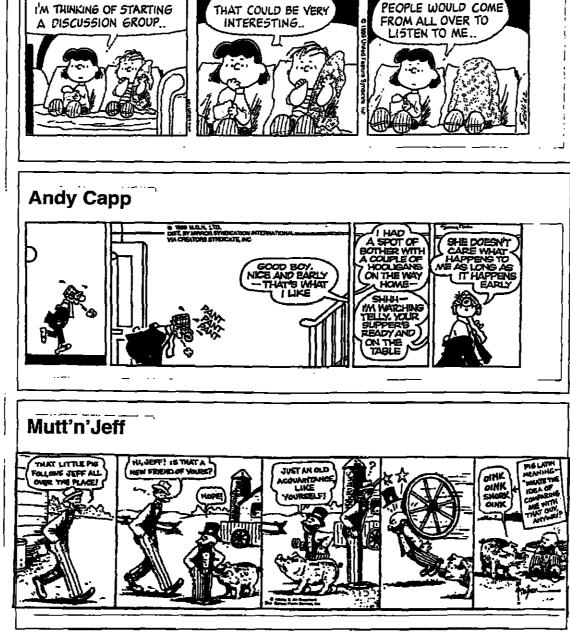
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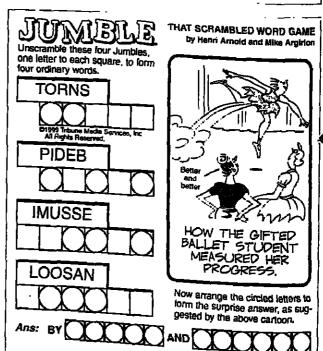
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## ramme · AFM trading, share prices expected to continue rising

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — The general price index and the trading volume rose by 1.8 per cent and 445.5 per cent respectively at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) last week following positive indications about the performance of some banks and industrial firms during 1998, brokers

said Friday. The AFM weekly report showed that the 60-share genprice index closed at 181.45 points compared to 178.12 points in the previous

week, a 3.33 points increase. Naim Nageeb, a broker at the stock market, said trading focused on mining, pharmaceutical and banks that showed initial good results during 1998.

The price index of industrial, services and banking sectors rose by 3.2, 3.6 and 3.4 points respectively.

The report indicated that trading volume amounted to JD12 million during the fiveday trading in the past week compared to JD2.1 million in the previous week, when tradng days were restricted to two days following the death of His Majesty King Hussein.

The seven-page report showed the industrial sector ranked first with a turnover amounting to JD7 million. or 58.3 per cent of the total trading volume.

Jordan Phosphate Mines Company recorded 14 per cent of the volume followed

by the Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Company with 12.7 per cent and the International Tobacco and Cigarettes Company for 8.1 per cent.

The banking sector ranked second with a trading volume of JD2.7 million, where the Housing and Arab banks registered 17.6 per cent of the total volume.

The bulletin showed that share prices of the 13 banks that were traded on the floor recorded increase. The services sector ranked

third with JD2.3 million of the total volume, or 19.1 per cent. Trading focused on the Jordan Electric Power and the Jordan Press Foundation, Al

Naqeeb expected the stock market will maintain this rhythm this week and predicted trading will focus on shares of companies that have recorded "good" results in the past year, mostly in the banking and industrial sectors.

Parallel market won 10.1 per cent of the trading volume, which amounted to JD1.2 million. The bulk of this volume were recorded by the United Arab Investors and the Century Investment and the Al Ekbal Investment amounted JD677.986.

Share prices of 61 firms rose during last week trading. 12 firms recorded decline in their share prices while eight firms registered no changes in their share prices.

## Jordanian industrialists meet Iraq's trade minister today to discuss boosting exports

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN - Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh is expected to start discussions here today with Jordanian industrialists on the Kingdom's exports to his country amid indications that the trade volume with Baghdad declined in 1998.

A statement from the Ammun Chamber of Industry said the meeting with the Iraqi official will focus on the obstacles that impede the flow of goods to the sanctions-hit country and how to increase exports to Iraq.

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chamber. Khaldoun Abu Hassan, as saying that the industrialists are looking forward to increase the trade volume with Iraq, which declined from JD255 million in 1996 to almost JD190 million this year

During a meeting between the industrialists and the chamber's council on Wednesday. participants proposed an expansion of the list of goods allowed to be exported to Baghdad.

following a drop in global oil

Following the 1990-91 Gulf War, Iraq signed a trade proto-

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It quoted the chairman of the col with Jordan, which is usu- Jordan's foreign exports in ally reviewed and renewed by the two countries on an annual

> A study by the Amman Chamber of Industry showed that Jordanian exports to Iraq declined by 18 per cent in the past year compared to 1997

The study, which was made available to the Jordan Times, indicated that Jordanian exports to Iraq amounted to JD104 million in the first nine months of 1998. It said the decline was due to the "reduction of the Jordanian-Iragi trade protocol" and the decline of

general in 1998.

But despite the decline, Iraq ranked first among the Arab markets importing Jordanianmade products, the eight-page study said.

The Kingdom's exports to Iraq amounted to 22.8 per cent of its exports to Arab countries in the first nine months of 1998 compared to 25.6 per cent in the same period of 1997. Jordan's total exports to Arab states in the past year amounted to JD456.7 million.

The study said Kingdom's oil imports from Iraq in the first seven months of

1998 amounted to JD115.1 increase million compared to JD291 million in 1997.

The study indicated that exports to Iraq reached a peak in 1995 and called for increasing the trade protocol to \$800

million. It indicated that the Kingdom's share of exports to Iraq in line with the oil-forfood agreement Baghdad signed with the U.N. increased in 1998.

It showed that Jordanian industrialists won contracts worth JD138 million in 1998 compared to JD96 million in the previous year, a 44 per cent

The bulk of Jordanian exports were vegetable oil, soaps, medicine and medical

supplies and detergents. The study proposed an increase in the number of products that Jordan can export to Iraq and noted that industrialists were ready to rehabilitate Iraqi factories damaged by the U.S.-led attacks against Iraq in the past eight years.

The oil-for-food deal, which was reached in December 1996, stipulates that Iraq can sell \$2 billion worth of oil in exchange for humanitarian purchases.

The family of the late Nagib Sahyoun, founder BANKS and former president of REFCO - The Real Estate +8.80% +1.03% Financing Corporation in Amman,

is deeply saddened and moved

by the passing of

## **His Majesty** King Hussein

and conveys to

## **His Majesty** King Abdullah II,

to Her Majesty Queen Noor and to all the members of the Hashemite family their sincere condolences and deep sorrow for the great loss of our beloved King Hussein. May God the Almighty rest his soul in peace.

### JORDAN MARKETPLACE \*\*\* JORDAN MARKETPLACE \*\*\* JORDAN MARKETPLACE

By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1999

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This should be a good day to fall in love. A person who fits your pictures could come out of nowhere. Here's a word of caution, however. The pictures are not all there is. Its more important to fall in love with somebody who'll turn out to be a good friend, so don't be side-tracked by appearances.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You might wake up with a headache this morning, but it'll ease as the day continues. The moon's going into your sign, and that's wonderful. With the sun in Pisces there will a calming, healing feeling about the day. Its a marvellous weekend for cla tiful gardens and snuggling with someone you love.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A meeting with friends could turn out very well and produce lots of great new ideas. If travel is among them, however, take care. Anticipate delays and other inconveniences, and do your best if they occur. If you don't have to go right now, your best bet is to stay put. at least until after rush hour.

CANCER: (June 22 to July 22) Remember to be respectful again today, especially to a person who seems to be trying to get you upset. You like things to be nice, and maybe even a bit genteel, but you might feel like you've invited Tigger to a tea party. Don't despair. You could have a lot of fun in a situation like that. Just don't bring out your good china.

LEO: (July 23 to August 22) Your plans for today may have to be changed due to unforeseen circumstances. Well, you might be able to foresee them, if you're careful. Although you have a tendency to be impetuous, right now that wouldn't be wise. The thing most likely to get you are predictable, but not obvious.

VIRGO: (August 23 to September 22) Make sure that cheque is in the mail before you take off on Saturday. You never forget things like that, unless, of course, it happens to be a cheque you're writing to yourself. Virgos quite often manage this sort of account for other people. Today, make sure that you take care of yourself.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 23) Self-discipline is required today, especially if you're going shopping. If you keep that in mind, you'll probably do fine. Even if you spot some good bargains early today, looks like you'll find some even better ones later. Buy the old things early and the new things in the afternoon.

SCORPIO: (October 24 to November 21) You're still raring to go this morning, but by this afternoon and evening you may have worn down a little. You'll be tired by then, most likely, and ready to let somebody else carry part of the load. Luckily for you, it looks like somebody else is eager to do

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You should be in a good mood today for household projects. Your energy level is high, your attitude is excellent and you're feeling extremely creative. You'll be doing these jobs not because you have to, but because you want to, and that makes all the difference in the world.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) This weekend's going to be excellent for entertaining friends and family. Its especially good for entertaining that one person you'd like to get to know better, in the privacy of your own home. If you're going to ask that one over, don't bother to invite all

the rest. They'll get over it. AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) Bad news. One of your brilliant ideas isn't going to work today. Good news. You have lots more where that came from, a never-ending supply, in fact, and a little bit of frustration just whets your appetite. Get back to the textbooks and find the answer to this newest puzzle that's got you baffled.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) That Taurus moon helps you concentrate and think more clearly. It also helps you be practical, hard working, thrifty and sensual. Those are all the main things that Taurus is good for, so you can pick from that list, or add the ones you've discovered on your own, as you make your plans for this weekend.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst - Onyx

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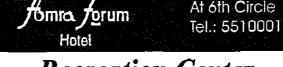


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## Myllylae wins 30k in opening event of nordic worlds

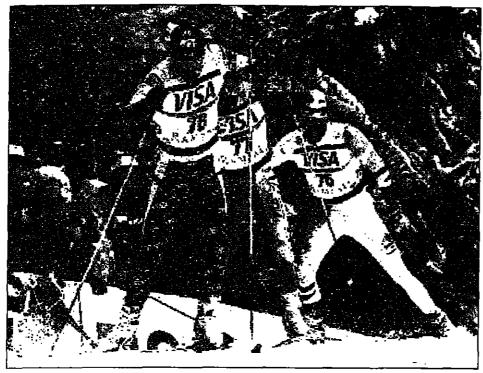
RAMSAU, Austria (AP) – Mika Myllylae of champion who thrives in difficult conditions, powered through a snow storm to win the men's 30-kilometre freestyle race Friday and capture the first gold medal of the Nordic Ski World Championship.

Myllylae, 29, set a punishing pace from the start and led at all intermediate timing stations.

"The conditions were perfect for me." Myllylae said. "But never, ever in my dreams did I think I would win today." He kept increasing his lead throughout the race and won in one hour, 15 minutes. 26.2 seconds, 35.3 seconds ahead of Thomas Alsgaard of Norway.

Norwegian superstar Bjorn Daehlie, the most successful cross-country skier in history, struggled over the last few kilometres and had to settle for the bronze medal, 7.2 seconds behind Alsgaard, who overtook his teammate late in the race.

Fulvio Valbusa of Italy, who had spent part of the race behind Myllylae and at one point was ahead of Daehlie, faded in the late set back last week by an stages and finished fourth. inflammation of the vocal But Daehlie was unable to cords. While winning vir-



Mika Myllylae (L) of Finland is on his way to win the men's 30 km Cross Country event at the World Nordic Skiing Championships Feb. 19. Myllylae won the race in a time of one hour 15 minutes 26.2 seconds ahead of the Norwegians Thomas Alsgaard and Bjoern Daehli. Pictured right to Myllylae are fourth placed Fulvio Valbusa of Italy and Anders Bergstroem of Sweden (Reuters photo)

instead of moving to sec-

ond place, allowed Alsgaard to break through. Daehlie's training was

take advantage of tually everything else, Valbusa's problems and Daehlie has struggled over the 30k in recent years and has not won a major title in the event since the 1993

"nobody could catch Mika today." Myllylae crossed "I was ok until the 15th the line waving a Finnish kilometre but then Thomas flag and threw off his cap attacked from behind and I in celebration.

a snow storm and the 50k world title in 1997 in Trondheim, Norway, in pouring rain. The snow never let up during the race Friday but

He won the Olympic

title last year in Nagano in

the it didn't seem to bother Myllylae.

"I have been training here for many years and this is like a home village for me," Myllylae said. The Finn said he had

been hesitating a long time

before deciding whether to

race the 30k at all. "My best is the 50k. But I won a 10k event in seefeld last weekend and then I saw that I had to race the 30k here," he

For Daehlie, the 30k remains a jinxed event. He finished a disappointing 20th at the Nagano Olympics after choosing the wrong wax. He was second in the 1995 and 1997 Worlds, and second at the 1992 and 1994 Olympics.

Still, he remains on course to medal on all five

events here. In his sixth world championship, Daehlie now has total of 16 medals, only one behind the record of Elena Vaelbe, the retired

## Courier trying to boost confidence

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (AP) doing his job well," he said. - Jim Courier isn't ready to quit tennis just yet, and he has his sights set on rejoining the top ranks.

Courier took a step in that direction Thursday night when he followed an upset of fourth-seeded Chang in the second round

beating Laurence Tieleman 6-7 (7-5), 7-5, 6-1 to advance to today's quarterfinals at the \$700,000 St. Jude Indoor tournament.

It was Courier's best performance this year after injuring a groin during the Australian Öpen. "You have to build your

home one brick at a time." said Courier, a former No. 1 who is currently ranked 69th in the world. "I don't think it would be very difficult for me to go from not playing well, not playing well, not playing well, then out of the blue win a (grand) slam."

Courier has 23 career titles, including four Grand Slam victories. But he has struggled in recent years with injuries and got into this tournament, sponsored by Kroger, with a wild card.

Top-seeded Todd Martin said he isn't counting Courier out on his comeback attempt. "Jim puts a lot of stress on

Courier said he understands that he can't just turn his game on and off and that he needs to try and play well for several weeks at a time.

"I guess the crux of what I'm trying to get at here is I need to build match upon match to build my confidence and also instill some fear in the locker room." Courier nearly lost his

momentum Tieleman. He blew a 3-1 lead in the first set as the Italian broke him twice to win the Courier broke But

Tieleman in the 12th game of the second set to avoid another tiebreaker, and the American took control in the third with a 4-0 lead.

"We were in a bit of a dogfight until I broke it out in the third set," Courier said. He was scheduled to meet

sixth-seeded Mariano Puerta for the first time in the quarterfinals today. Puerta defeated Richey Reneberg 4-6, 6-3,

In other action Thursday, Martin beat Kenneth Carlsen 7-6 (7-3), 6-2 and advanced to meet Jan Michael Gambill, a 6-3, 7-6 (8-6) winner over Scott Draper. No. 3 Tommy Haas downed 13th-seeded

Ramon Delgado 7-6 (7-2), 6-4 and next meets 12th-seeded Andrew Ilie, who beat Jiri Novak 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

John Van Lottum stopped Todd Woodbridge 6-4, 6-4 and next meets unseeded Daniel Nestor, a 1-6, 6-3, 7-6 (12-10) winner over Mark Philippoussis.

Philippoussis' chances of defending his title here and of winning for a second straight week on the tour by nearly matching the Australian ace

Philippoussis. last week's champion at the Sybase Open, came in ranked 14th in the world, seeded No. 2 and riding a 9-1 match streak. The Australian started quickly, only to stumble in the second set.

the third set, Philippoussis couldn't regain momentum against nestor, ranked 104th. He had match point in the tiebreaker at 6-5, only to double-fault. "It's extremely disappoint-

ing," Philippoussis said. "I had my chances there. I just didn't take them. I felt fresh, and I'm very disappointed. I'm going to go home very

## **NBA Round-up**

lost the second place,"

Alsgaard said Myllylae

was unbeatable Friday.

Daehlie said.



New York Knicks' defender Marcus Camby falls to the floor after being run down by Cleveland Cavaliers' Derek Anderson during the third quarter in Cleveland on Feb. 18. The Cavaliers beat the Knicks 98-74 (AFP photo)

#### Rockets edge **Nets; Cavaliers** rout Knicks

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) -Scottie Pippen hit a free throw with 3.3 seconds left in overtime and the Houston Rockets got the benefit of two late calls in beating the New Jersey Pippen's game-winning

free throw capped a 26point performance. The Nets thought they had taken a 94-92 lead with 6.6 seconds left when Jayson Williams put in the rebound off Kerry Kittles miss. However,

referee Scott Foster

waved off the basket for

Nets 93-92 on Thursday offensive interference, ruling the ball was still on the cylinder when the

Nets centre touched it. Seconds later, Houston's Hakeem Olajuwon made a bad pass to a falling Pippen, but referee Marc Davis ruled Scott Burrell tripped Pippen as he was backing up. Pippen made the first free throw and missed the second.



The New Jersey Nets' Jayson Williams (L), Houstons Rockets' Hakeem Olajuwon (C), Nets' Chris Gatling (2nd R) and the Rockets' Michael Dickerson battle for a loose ball under the basket in the first quarter at Continental Airlines Arena in East Rutherford, N.J. (AFP photo)

points and a season-high 15 rebounds, forced the overtime, hitting a line-drive shot from the top of the key with 4.4 seconds left to tie it at 85. Kendall gill led the nets with 24

#### Cavaliers 98, Knicks 74

In Cleveland, Shawn Kemp scored 20 points and Vitaly Potapenko had 17 points and 12 rebounds as Cleveland, playing its first game since learning Zydrunas Ilgauskas would miss the rest of the season, embarrassed New York.

Wednesday, tests On revealed that the 7-foot-3 Ilgauskas fractured a small bone in his left foot. With Potapenko starting at centre, the Cavs outworked the knicks all over the floor but especially in the paint, finishing with a surprising 42-37 rebounding advantage. Wesley Person added 14

points, Cedric Henderson

Olajuwon, who had 21 13 and Brevin Knight 11 assists as the Cavs won their fourth straight game after opening 0-3. Patrick Ewing had 14 points and Allan Houston 12 for New York, which had its fourgame winning streak stopped.

#### Pacers 99. 76ers 95

In Indianapolis. Antonio Davis scored 16 points and Reggie Miller added 15 as Indiana beat Philadelphia, the pacers' 10th straight victory over the 76ers and 15th in their last 16 meetings.

Sam Perkins had seven of his 11 points in the fourth quarter. He made a layup and his first 3-pointer of the season to start the final peri-

od and ignite a 13-6 run in the first four minutes, giving Indiana a 79-70 lead. Alan Iverson led the 76ers with 33 points and Matt Geiger had 22.

#### Wizards 95. Raptors 88

Toronto, Mitch Richmond scored 31 points and Rod Strickland had 23 points and 14 assists in Washington's victory over Toronto. Washington's two victo-

ries this season have come against the Raptors, who have lost five straight after beating Boston in their season opener.

Kevin Willis led the Raptors with 25 points and 14 rebounds.

### Jazz 97, Nuggets 86

In Salt Lake City, Bryon Russell had 21 points and Jeff Hornacek added 19 as Utah matched its best start in franchise history.

The Jazz, who have beaten Denver nine straight times, are 7-1 to equal their 1989-90 start. The Nuggets lost their fourth straight game to fall to 1-8, the second-worst mark in the league.

Nick Van Exel had 19 points and eight assists for Denver.

### Star's father latest victim in Mexico kidnapping wave

ACAPULCO, Mexico (AP) - The victim was extraordinary, but the crime was frighteningly ordinary.

The kidnapping of the father of soccer star Jorge Campos was stunning because it struck the family of one of the country's most famous athletes.

Campos, goalkeeper of the national team in the 1994 and 1998 World Cup tournaments, is a stylish, popular figure and a fixture in television commercials. But the crime itself was commonplace. Kidnappers

in Mexico have terrorised shopkeepers. farmers, bankers and entertainers. The crimes have been blamed on common crimi-

nals, guerrilla bands and even police. "It's just another kidnapping, but it happens to involve somebody said Hector famous," Garcia, a businessman in Mexico city. "There are lots of kidnappings every day, but nobody seems to care anymore." Alvaro Campos, 65, was seized Wednesday by eight men brandishing assault rifles at a sports field named for his son outside the resort city of

Acapulco. Alvaro Campos, known to friends as "El Nono," or "the grandpa," is well-liked and known for promoting local soccer.

He also recorded television commercials for the governing institutional revolutionary party before this month's state election. "El Nono told all of U.S.,

his family and his friends, that he had received some phone calls since December in which they threatened to kidnap him, but he said those were jokes," said Ricardo Jimenez Anaya, a friend of the elder Campos.

Jorge Campos flew home to Mexico on Thursday from Hong Kong, where he was in a tournament with Mexico's national soccer team.

Mexican news media reported that he met with officials from the attorney his arrival,

"I insist that the main thing in this case is that they respect the life of my father," he was quoted Thursday as telling the sports daily Ovaciones.

Campos has a contract with major league soccer to play for the Chicago Fire, but the team let him return to Mexico for the season to compete with a top division team, Unam Pumas.

The Fire, which acquired him from the Los Angeles Galaxy a year ago, expect him back in the spring.

"Our thoughts and concerns are with Jorge and his family.

We're very upset to hear about what happened, and we hope Alvaro is returned safely," Chicago Fire spokesman Adam Low said.

Police in Acapulco said they couldn't comment on the case until the family filed a complaint. Acapulco, one of Mexico's most famed beach resorts, is a part of Guerrero State. which has been plagued by abductions.

New York native Vincent Carroza, manager of Acapulco's Princess Hotel, was held for eight days in December 1997.

Businessman Melchor Perusquia was found murdered in march 1996 after his family paid a ransom reported at \$390,000.

Vicente Fernandez, a ranchero-style singer, had to pay a reported \$3.2 million in September to win the release of a son, who had two fingers cut off by kidnappers during a fourmonth captivity in northern Mexico.

Mexico's most-wanted kidnapper, Daniel Arizmendi, known for cutting off victims' ears, was captured in August. But general's office shortly after kidnappings have not abat-

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## another remains under investigation SALT LAKE CITY (AP) - Of the

two Salt Lake City Olympic officials put on leave during the investigation of the bribery scandal, one will keep his job and the other will remain on leave pending further evaluation.

Mitt Romney, the new president of the Salt Lake Organising Committee (SLOC), decided late Thursday that kelly flint, senior vice president of marketing and legal affairs, will retain his job.

Licensing director Rod Hamson will remain on paid leave pending further evaluation in the next 30 days. spokesman Caroline Shaw

Flint and Hamson declined to comment.

An independent ethics panel last week blamed Tom Welch, former head of the bid committee, and David Johnson, senior vice president, for spending more than \$1 million in cash, free vacations, living supends, gifts and free medical care on International Olympic Committee (IOC) members and their families prior to the 1995 IOC vote that awarded Salt Lake the

2002 winter games. Flint and Hamson have been on paid leave since Jan. 8, when SLOC President Frank Joklik and Johnson resigned. Joklik remains on the SLOC board of trustees.

Flint and Hamson were not responsible for the excesses, but Flint signed some checks and Hamson prepared vouchers for checks that allowed relatives of IOC members to attend American universities or simply to live in the U.S., the ethics panel reported.

Wednesday unanimously recommended that flint return to the SLOC, but the final decision was left to Romney.

One Olympic executive is retained,

When he accepted the job last week, Romney said he would raise the ethical bar and require all employees and trustees to sign a code of ethics. And he asked trustees who "cast a shadow on the games, even where no wrong may

have been done," to resign. Flint was the second signator on a number of checks to IOC member relatives, but he told the ethics panel he thought the checks were authorised under a scholarship pro-

He also told the ethics panel that he had no way of knowing that the names on the checks belonged to relatives of IOC members.

Among the IOC relatives who benefited from checks flint signed was Sibo Sibandze, the son of David Sibandze of Swaziland, who resigned from the IOC amid the scandal last month.

Ultimately, Sibo Sibandze got more than \$111,000 from the bid committee.

While flint attended meetings of the bid board and its executive committee and wrote the minutes, he was not involved in the day-to-day operations and played no significant role in entertaining IOC members, the ethics panel report said.

The report described harnson as a fresh college graduate who was given the title of finance director, but who had no leadership role.

Hamson schmoozed with IOC members and simply did what he was told by Welch and Johnson, the vouchers for checks showing documentation that did not exist.

"In this regard he was not unlike other bid committee employees who were aware of educational grants to IOC relatives and had suspicions about direct payments." the report

In other Olympic developments:
— the Utah House of Representatives voted 70-0 to hold SLOC's board to its promise of conducting business in public with open meetings and records. The bill, which now goes to the Senate, would require as a condition for using taxpayer-built sports venues that the Olympic organisation open

many of its records to anyone who

asks for them.

Rep. Dave Jones, D-Salt Lake City, said few people could tell what was going on during the bidding. "We looked at budgets, but we didn't see a line item for 'bribery." Jones said. "We looked at audits, but we didn't see any mention of super bowl trips or scholarship funds. We simply didn't have access to the information we needed." the Utah House also moved to lift a sales tax diversion that paid for \$59 million worth of Olympic sports venues. The money was raised and a bobsled and luge run, a speed-skating oval and an ice rink built. The state began dedicating a tiny fraction of the sales tax— equal to 3

House members voted unanimously to repeal the tax diversion, sending the bill to the senate.

cents on a \$100 purchase - in

 U.S. Rep. Chris Cannon, R-Utah, said the scandal was unlikely The compensation committee on report said. That included filling out to jeopardise \$90 million in

promised federal funding for olympic-related highway improvements. Cannon told Utah legislators Thursday that Congress will follow through on the funding even as its accounting arm, the general accounting office, inquires about the use of federal money already spent on the Olympic effort.

 A former ski official said Salt Lake City "robbed" U.S.

winter sports athletes of \$3 million in unkept promises made in its bid for the winter Olympics. Howard Peterson, who stepped down as executive director of the U.S. Skiing Association in 1994, called for Utah authorities to pay the money now to help get American athletes ready for 2002. The U.S. Olympic Committee said that a check of Salt Lake's bid documents found no specific mention of the programme referred to by Peterson.

- Swedish officials said an IOC member expelled in the bribery scandal, Zein Al Abdin Ahmed Abdel Gadir of Sudan, was consistently drunk as he checked out Stockholm's bid for the 2004 games and got so offensive that he was thrown out of a dinner party. Gadir was one of two IOC members whose behaviour was questioned by Stockholm bid leaders in a letter to the IOC. The letter, from bid officials

Goeran Laangsved and Olof Stenhammar, said none of the members who visited Stockholm violated IOC guidelines, but singled out Gadir and Lamine Keita of Mali for "behaviour ... not up to expectations." Gadir and Keita were ousted from the IOC last month after being

## Chelsea aim to end lean spell at forest

LONDON (R) — Chelsea only established striker visit lowly Nottingham Forest on Saturday anxious to make up ground on English Premier League Leaders Manchester United.

The clash looks very onesided in theory as Chelsea sit just four points off the top with a game in hand and forest are four points adrift of Southampton at the bot-

But Nomingham Forest has not proved a happy hunting ground for the London side who have won only one of eight league visits, back in 1994.

Chelsea's chase for the title is not being helped by their worsening disciplinary record.

Gianluca Vialli marred his anniversary as Chelsea player-manager when he was sent off against Blackburn Rovers in mid-

He now faces a threeban, leaving Gianfranco Zola as their because Tore Andre Flo and Pierluigi Casiraghi are out injured.

"Now the season gets really tough," Vialoia admitted. "We have so many players out...it does not help at all." Manchester United travel to 17th-placed Coventry who are still licking their wounds after a 4-1 midweek thumping by Newcastle United.

United have won five of their six premier league visits to Highfield road and the Andy Cole-Dwight Yorke golden partnership suggests more misery is in store.

The United strikers continue to prosper, Cole's goal against Arsenal on Wednesday brought their combined total for the season to 40.

United manager Alex Ferguson is confident his side can hold off all chal-

lengers.
"We are stronger then we were at this stage last year,"

he said. "We have more quality in depth in our squad which not only provides cover for injuries but introduces competition for places which keeps everyone on their toes." Champions Arsenal host Leicester City, with the visitors on a high after securing a league cup final spot

on Wednesday. They are unlikely to take much away from Highbury, though - it has been 26 years since Leicester have won a league game there.

Fourth-placed Villa, faltering on a run of three consecutive defeats, must wait until Sunday for their visit to Wimbledon.

Leeds United, fifth, welcome Everton who have not won at Elland Road since 1951. They have tried in vain 32 times since and with Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink back on scoring form, it looks like the sequence will

## Fiorentina can win minus Batistuta

ROME (R) — Fiorentina head into Sunday's Serie A clash with as Roma filled with new belief that there is without injured Argentine captain Gabriel

Batistuta. With Portuguese midfielder Rui Costa producing his best form of the season, the Florentine side gained a vital 2-0 win at Bologna in their Italian Cup semifinal first leg on Thursday.

Batistuta's stand-in Carmine Esposito even made-up for the top man's absence with a 33rd minute goal straight out of the Argentine's repenoire — a first-time 20-metre shot into

The victory was a timely boost for a team who have lost both an inspirational striker for six weeks with a twisted knee and the league leadership.

Fiorentina are level on points with Lazio at the top but trail on goal difference. They must beat Roma at the Artemio Franchi Stadium : selection on Sunday to keep their title hopes alive after a 1-0 defeat at Udinese last week.

Prior to Thursday's triumph, Fiorentina had won five, drawn seven and lost eight — a record which had led pundits to predict that the florentine side's chances of a first crown since 1969

Argentine returns in april. "Fiorentina demonstrated that it can win without my goals," said Batistuta. "Now

Manager Giovanni Trapattoni could even of striker pended. Edmundo against Roma.

Fiorentina is Batistuta."

The Brazilian, who controversially abandoned his injury-hit team to attend the Rio Carnival, returned to Florence on Thursday and while Fiorentina were beating Bologna.
"Edmundo will return to

will be over long before the work with U.S. and, if he seeks to regain the faith of

shows that he is in good physical condition, he will take the field against Roma," said Trapattoni.

Fiorentina will definitely you can stop saying that be without three other first team players on Sunday midfielder Sandro Cois and afford to put a question- defenders Moreno Torricelli mark over the automatic and Guilio Falcone, all sus-

Should Edmundo play, he will feel at home because Roma manager Zdenek Zeman has indicated that be will field five Brazilians defenders Aldair, Cafu and was sleeping off jet lag Antonio Zago may appear alongside strikers Paolo Sergio and new signing Fabio Junior as Zeman

Roma's fans. The Roma coach, already

out of favour for a series of poor results, was accused of "high treason" this week after doing the unthinkable - praising city rivals and league leaders Lazio, the team he used to coach.

"I don't want to pass for a Lazio supporter," said Zeman, rushing to correct his error. "I only said that their top of the table position has given a boost to football in the Italian capi-

## Bordeaux playmaker Bernabia suspended

PARIS (R) — French league leaders Girondins Bordeaux playmaker Ali Bernabia has been banned for two months for deliberately stamping on a linesman's

Bernabia, who attended a French Football Federation disciplinary commission on Thursday, stamped on the linesman's feet at the end of a league match at Rennes 10 days

The fiery midfielder was sent off from the Bordeaux substitutes' bench for disputing a free-kick awarded to rennes five minutes from time. Rennes equalised thanks to the free-kick

and the game ended a 1-1 draw. "I apologised to the linesman and to the

was injured. I didn't hit the linesman". Bernabia said. Girondins vice-president Jean-Didier Lange said they will lodge an appeal

officials. And I told them I accepted the

ban. Of course I reacted badly but nobody

against Bernabia's two-month suspension. Bernabia is likely to miss five of the last ten league games and should be back at Sochaux on April 24.

Girondins coach Elie Baup, also sent off that night, said the punishment will mar the end of the championship.

"There are ten matches to go and a two-month ban is very severe." Baup said. "everybody knows that Bernabia is our key

### Blatter to meet UEFA chiefs over biennial World Cup plan

GENEVA (R) --- FIFA president Sepp Blatter will meet UEFA has so far been forthright European soccer chiefs next in its rejection of the idea. The week to discuss his suggestion executive committee last month to hold the World Cup every passed a resolution saying it two years. UEFA, European soccer's governing body, said in a statement on Friday that Blatter would attend a meeting of its executive committee in

Geneva next Wednesday. "had no positive elements for

European football nor football

in genereal nor the World Cup".

Friday's statement said Blatter

would be "asked to provide more details of the proposal he launched via the media at the beginning of the year".

UELFA DOSSES have made clea their annoyance that Blatter went public with the idea before consulting them.

## Whitaker says there will be no excuses

Whitaker scoffs at suggestions he is in the autumn of a brilliant boxing career.

"I have no rust on me." said the 35-year-old Whitaker, who did not fight in 1998 because of being in drug and alcohol rehabilitation. "I

don't want any excuses. There will be no excuses in this fight." the fight will be Saturday night in Madison Square Garden, and it will pit Whitaker against IBF Welterweight Champion

Felix Trinidad of Puerto Rico. "He will be trying to beat me, it's just that nobody has." said Whitaker (41-2-1, 17 knockouts), who is convinced he won losing decisions against Jose Luis Ramirez and Oscar De La Hoya and a Chavez.

Nobody has beaten the 26vear-old Trinidad (33-0, 28 knockouts), controversially or

Whitaker contends he has not watched any videotapes of Trinidad's fight. But Trinidad's father, who trains his son, studied tapes of Whitaker.

"I've watched them all, especially the last one." he

Whitaker's last fight, his first after losing the WBC Welterweight title to De La Hoya, was a 12-round decision over Andre Pestriaev. That win was supposed to earn Whitaker a shot at then WBA Champion Ike Quartey, but he tested positive for

New York (AP) —Pernell draw against Julio Cesar cocaine and ended up in drugalcohol rehabilitation in 1998, a year in which he also got a suspended sentence for reckless driving.

"He's still a good boxer, but the drugs and alcohol have taken their toll," the senior Trinidad said, "but Whitaker still has pride." "He's a little bit slower, but he's still strong," the champion said of Whitaker, "He has experience." Whitaker also is lefthanded, but Trinidad said, "I

don't think that's any prob-

lem. I've fought left-handers

before." Trinidad, at 5-foot-

also has physical advan-

tages over the 5-6 Whitaker. So it seems to be a matter of how much age and lifestyle have cost Whitaker and has Trinidad's caliber of opposition developed to the point of his being a fighter whose abil-

ity matches his record. In seven fights in the last four vears. Trinidad has fought

less than 23 full rounds. It will be Trinidad's 12th defense of the title he won by knocking out Maurice Blocker in the second round June 19, 1993.

Whitaker will be trying to become a Welterweight champion for the second time. He also has held world

titles as a Lightweight, Junior Welterweight and Junior Middleweight the fight will be televised by HBO, but it will be preceded by a rebroadcast of WBC Champion Welterweight Oscar De La Hoya's splitdecision win over ike quartey last Saturday in Las Vegas.

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- Contact telephone/fax number - Year of Establishment
- Number of staff (define all categories)
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- Reference client sites and contact details. - Type of software support and maintenance services provided.

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## Taleban ban production of heroin, destroy 34 labs

JALALABAD (AP) — The hardline Taleban Islamist militia Friday banned heroin production Afghanistan and destroyed 34 heroin laboratories in a southern province.

The heroin manufacturing laboratories were destroyed in the Nangarhar province on the borders Pakistan, Abdul Hamid Akhundzada, in charge of Taleban's drug control authority, told reporters in the provincial capital Jalalabad.

The Taleban also arrested 15 people who worked in these laboratories, he said.

There are hundreds of laboratories in Afghanistan where raw opium is refined to produce fine-quality heroin powder. Most laboratories are

close to Pakistan through which the heroin is smuggled to Western countries.

ground forces opened fire on

Western aircraft which flew

sorties over the northern and

southern no-fly zones in Iraq

on Friday from bases in Saudi

Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, an

The statement quoted by the

Iraqi News Agency did not

report any casualties. Earlier, a

U.S. military official said U.S.

jets had fired two missiles at an

Iraqi radar site in the northern

no-fly zone.

military communiqué

in no-fly zones

produce 10 to 15 kilogrammes of heroin, worth millions of dollars, a day.

But Akhundzada said the supreme Taleban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar in an edict Friday ordered dismantling of all heroin laboratories.

The Taleban militia. which rules almost 90 per cent of the country, has moved against heroin production for the first time since it captured Kabul in 1996.

Western countries and the United Nations have often demanded for a crackdown on the heroin laboratories.

Akhundzada said after Nangarhar province, an operation against the heroin laboratories will soon be launched in the southwestern Kandahar province which is also located on the borders with Pakistan.

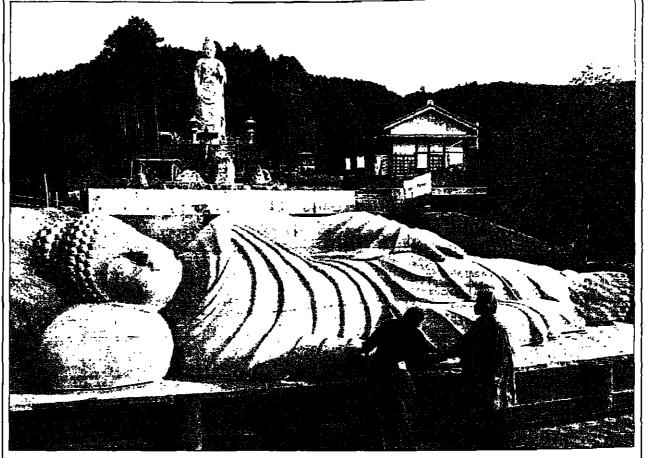
The owners of heroin laboratories and people

working there will be severely punished, he said. Ainullah, one of the 15 worker arrested at a heroin production laboratories, said most people are forced to do work at heroin laboratories because there is no other employment in this war-ravaged country. "Here we earn 500

rupees a day (\$9), which is a big amount," he said. In Afghanistan, the average salary of government employee is \$4 to \$10 per

month. The Taleban, who are Sunni Muslims and mostly Pashtun — the majority ethnic group of the country - follow a strict version of Islam.

They are fighting the northern-based opposition alliance, which comprise of religious and ethnic minorities, on several fronts in a bid to capture the remaining 10 per cent of the country.



GIANT BUDDHA AT REST: Tourists examine an eight-metre-long stone statue of Buddha in front of a 20-metretall stone statue of the goddess of Mercy at Takatori town in Nara prefecture, western Japan. The 30-tonne Buddha, one of nation's largest stone statues, was built by Indian and Japanese sculptors for two years to celebrate the 1,300th anniversary of the founding of Tsubosaka Temple (AP photo)

#### Iraq says Western BAIKONUR (AP) planes attack sites not find private donors to pay be discarded.

When Mir's first module

A U.S. military spokesman told Reuters in Ankara on Friday that the U.S. planes had fired in self-defence in the north after Iraqi radar locked on to them, but there was no

"While conducting routine The murderous crows violated our airspace today," the statement said. It was the third time this week that Iraq reported Western planes flying sorties in the northern no-fly zone and the second time it said they vio-

The jets flew from the south-U.S. and British planes are patrolling the no-fly zones set up in the south to protect Shiite Muslims and the north to protect Kurds after the 1991 Gulf

The Iraqi statement said 12 formations flew sorties from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait at 10 a.m. local time in Basra, Muthanna and Dhi Qar provinces. Iraqi air defences opened fire on them and "sent

them fleeing to their dens of The planes included F-14s. F-15s, and F-16s supported by early warning aircraft, it said.

The statement said 11 forma-

tions "violated" Iraqi airspace

in the northern no-fly zone on

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi Friday morning from Turkey and fired two missiles. Iraqi forces fired at the planes, it

> The statement said that the planes flew over the northern cities of Dohuk, Erbil, Ahmadiya, Mosul, Zakhu and Rawanduz.

patrols of the no-fly zone, two U.S. F-16s launched two AGM-88 high-speed anti-radiation missiles in self-defence at a radar site," Captain Mike Blass said by telephone from U.S. European command in

em Turkish base of Incirlik. A U.S. Defence Department spokesman at U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Florida. said he could not confirm any incidents in the southern no-fly

He also said no Iraqi violations of the southern exclusion area had been reported. U.S. Central Command oversees U.S. forces in the

U.S. military jets conducted air strikes in Iraq's southern nofly zone and attacked air defences in the north on

On Thursday, Western planes attacked in the north. Iraq said.

## New Mir crew set for blastoff on station's 13th anniversary

Russia's Mir space station will mark 13 years in orbit on Saturday, and a new threeman crew - possibly Mir's last - will lift off for the station from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakstan.

was launched on Feb. 20, 1986, the station was expected to last only five years. It is by far the longest-lived space station, and has been running smoothly following several serious breakdowns in 1997.

Russian space professionals want to keep Mir in orbit for several more years, but it may be abandoned as early as August if the Russians canMir's expenses, estimated at about \$250 million a year. Russian Viktor Afanasyev, French astronaut Jean-Pierre

Heignere and Slovak Ivan Bella made final preparations Friday in advance of their Saturday morning lift-off. Their Soyuz TM-29 capsule is scheduled to dock with Mir two days after taking off. Bella will spend eight days

in space and then return to earth with Mir's current commander, Gennady Padalka. Padalka s crewmate, Sergei Avdeyev, will stay aboard with Afanasyev and Heignere

until Aug. 23.
After that, the station may

Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov said last month that Mir could stay in orbit for another three years — but only if private investors pay all expenses, and no one has yet to offer the money. The U.S. space agency

NASA wants the Russians to abandon Mir so Moscow can concentrate its limited resources on building the new international space station, a massive project involving 16 countries, led by the United States and

The initial parts of the new station were put into orbit at the end of last year, but no

people are expected to start living on the station until next year. Meanwhile, Afanasvev

appeared at a news conference Friday along with his crew and expressed hope that he wouldn't have to close the

"We are confident that our mission will not be the final one," he told reporters from behind a glass panel protecting him against possible infection.

"It would be a great pity to discard the station.

Heignere, the first French astronaut to fly a six-month Mir mission, said he hopes to pass time aboard Mir by

reading the works of 19thcentury science fiction writer Jules Verne. Several other French astro-

playing the saxophone and

nauts have spent shorter stints on the station. Afanasyev's crew is the 27th mission to Mir. which has hosted more than 100 Russian and foreign crew

members since it was put into If no money is available to send up more cosmonauts in August, mission control will fire the engines of a cargo ship attached to the station and send Mir crashing into the ocean several days after

Afanasyev's crew leaves.

### Arafat meets with Pope, renews invitation to Bethlehem

VATICAN CITY (AP) -Palestinian Yasser Arafat met with Pope John Paul II on Friday and renewed his invitation for the pontiff to visit Bethlehem in the year Arafat is in Rome for a

two-day. U.N.-sponsored conference Bethlehem 2000 project, an ambitious plan to spruce up the city where Christians believe Jesus was born and to jump-start tourism. The pontiff gave his

blessing to the conference Friday when he received a delegation of Bethlehem officials and he called once again for peace in the Middle East.

"Although Bethlehem's history... has often been marked by violence, the city still stands as a promise of peace and an assurance that the human hope for peace is not vain,' John Paul said.

As he has before, the Pope accepted Arafat's invitation, but no date was set. It was their seventh

"I hope I can be there," the pontiff told him.

John Paul has long wanted to visit the holy land but has deferred any journey because of the politically charged atmosphere of the region.

The pontiff spent 15 minutes in private conversation with Arafat, then another hour with Arafat and the conference delegation, which included the mayor of Bethlehem.

## Netanyahu ahead of Barak, Mordechai in polls

Kurds burn Turkish flag, continue protests

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu has a narrow lead over his two main opponents ahead of May 17 elections, but could lose to either of them in a runoff. according to polls published in Israeli newspapers Friday.

A poll in the daily Yediot Ahronot also indicated that the opposition Labour Party would be the largest in the next parliament, with 30 of the 120 seats. Netanyahu's Likud would finish second with 24. A new cen-

(Continued from page 1)

A group of Kurdish hunger-

strikers continued a peaceful

vigil in front of the U.N.

compound as Swiss police

unrolled huge balls of barbed

wire to seal off the building.

watch of Prime Minister

Bulent Ecevit will also be

exploited to win votes for his

party in the coming election. If

he is returned to office he is

likely to continue his uncom-

promising line on Cyprus (he

step up his anti-Greek line.

Thus, as one Greek newspaper

suggested, the Kurdish issue

trist party would get 13 seats. Polls in Yediot and the daily Maariv show Netanyahu with a narrow lead over Labout candidate Ehud Barak, with centrist Yitzhak Mordechai far behind in third place. In the Yediot survey.

Netanyahu leads 37 per cent to 30 per cent, and Mordechai gets 20 per cent. Maariv shows Netanyahu with 39 per cent to 36 per cent and Mordechai 14 per cent. A runoff would be necessary

In Paris, Kurds protesting

against Turkey's arrest of

Ocalan occupied UNESCO

headquarters near the Eiffel

Five Kurds were mean-

while remanded in custody

for storming the Kenyan

Tower on Friday.

if no candidate gets 50 per cent four per cent margin of error support in the first round. It would be held June 1. The polls do not predict a

clear winner in the second round if Netanyahu faces. Mordechai would defeat Netanyahu in a second round, according to both polls.

The Maany survey, conducted by Gallup, questioned 560 Israeli adults and quoted a 4.5 per cent margin of error. The Dahaf agency interviewed 500 Israeli adults and claimed a

embassy earlier this week

when Ocalan was flown from

Witnesses said 20 protest-

ers climbed on the roof of the

seven-floor headquarters of

UNESCO, the United

Educational

Kenya to Turkey.

for Yediot. Israeli basketball fans voted

against Netanyahu Thursday night in the way sports fans know Netanyahu was loudly booed at a game in Tel Aviv.

Ten thousand people were in the stands as Israel's basketball champions played Italy's champs in the European League.

Netanyahu arrived just after the second half began.

Scientific and Cultural

ledge, waving Kurdish flags. Another 400 demonstrators

were held back by police out-

side the building, shouting

anti-Turkish slogans. No one

was injured.

The JPA-government deal Organisation, and stood on a

### Paper to resume publication Thursday.

(Continued from page 1)

PPD Director Iyad Qattan said he respected the court's decision. However, he blamed the JPA for breaking an agree-Information Minister Nasser Judeh to refer to the association any professional violations committed by journalists. According to the agreement, the JPA would then decide whether or not to recommend that the case be referred to the courts.

was reached in line with govemment pledges to implement a "soft" application of the controversial law to ease tension sparked by the previous govemment's heavy-handed way of dealing with violations.

"The PPD referred various cases to the JPA board which failed to take any action," the

"This forced the PPD to send

to court the issue of Al Maid newspaper," Qattan added.

"It appears from some statements made by JPA board votes in future JPA elections is standing as an obstacle in reviving the JPA law, especially reactivating the association's disciplinary council," he said.

JPA President Seif Sherif rejected Qattan's remarks and said the association had studied all cases referred to it.

"It appears that the association's measures did not appeal to Mr. Qattan, and this is something that does not concern us as we cannot perform the role of the hangman of the press," he told Petra.

"On the contrary, we deal with laws with the view of organising general freedoms and unleashing them, not by Jordan News Agency, Petra, suppressing them and acting as

### Turk president hopes law will disarm PKK

(Continued from page 1)

months, have been passed over the last 10 years. The last, proposed in 1996 but not adopted. offered immunity to any guerrilla who surrendered and offered information that foiled a rebel action.

mation would get reduced Guerrilla activity would, at

least in theory, be punishable by death, though no one has been executed in Turkey since 1984. Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit

Hurriyet that the decision to capture Ocalan was made after Turkey was provided with information on Feb. 4 that Ocalan was in Kenya. Ecevit did not say how the

When asked about the U.S.

Reports said that the intelligence agencies of the United States or Israel had been involved in Ocalan's capture. Israel denied a role but Washington stopped short of an

The United States did not apprehend or transfer Ocalan or transport him to Turkey," State Department spokesman James P. Foley has said.

He had declined comment when asked whether U.S. officials had alerted Turkey to Ocalan's whereabouts or helped in other ways.

Ocalan was snatched by Turkish special forces outside the Greek embassy residence in Nairobi, Kenya where he

Nairobi right after the tip.

## Ocalan arrest spells 'bad news' for all involved parties

By Michael Jansen

THE ARREST of Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan is "bad news for Turkey, the Kurds, the region, everybody," asserted a Turkish writer who is running for parliament in the April election.

His detention and trial cannot but boost the position of the military within Turkey which is "bad news" for the country's democratic forces. For the army, which claims full credit for his apprehension, is now basking in popular approval and its "maroon berets," the special forces unit which carried out the operation, are regarded as national heroes. Ocalan, who has been demonised by the state-influenced media for the past two decades, is regarded by ordinary Turks as their country's public enemy number one.

The "Ocalan factor" will strengthen the army's hand in dealing with both its main antagonists, the Islamists and the Kurds. Thus, the generals can be expected to increase pressure on Turkey's civilian. political and judicial structures to tighten curbs on the Islamists, who occupy 20 per cent of the seats in parliament, constituting the largest political bloc. The army's objective would be to reduce the number

of Islamist candidates standing in the April poll or find means to exclude them from parliament altogether.

The military promptly demonstrated that it would The military continue its aggressive campaign to eradicate Ocalan's

### **ANALYSIS**

Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) by detaining hundreds of its supporters in Turkey and sending troops across the border into northern Iraq with the declared aim of mopping up PKK guerrillas based there in inaccessible mountain retreats but without much hope of doing so. The real point being to keep up both military and political pressure on the PKK so it will end its 14-year insurgency and capitulate to

Ankara's diktat. But unless the Turkish politico-military establishment comes to a negotiated settlement with the country's 20 per cent Kurdish minority, granting the Kurds linguistic and cultural freedom, recognition as a separate people and a measure of regional autonomy (the very demands put forward by Ocalan over the past three years), the Kurdish struggle will continue.

Ocalan's arrest under the

ordered the invasion and occupation of the northern third of the island in 1974) and Turkey's dispute with Greece over the Aegean. Indeed, accusing Greece of harbouring the fugitive, Ecevit may well

> could be added to the list of Graeco-Turkish problems. Ankara adopted unprecedented aggressive measures to secure Ocalan. In October it massed troops along the southem border with Syria and demanded that Damascus expel Ocalan and his followers or suffer attack. Squeezed between Turkey in the north and its regional ally Israel in

> the south. Syria had no choice but to send Ocalan on his way. For three and a half months he wandered in a wilderness, denied asylum by Russia, Italy, Holland and Greece because Turkey — and its global ally, the U.S. -- exerted considerable political pressure on all these countries. For good measure. Ankara uttered military menaces against Greece.

Success on the Ocalan front means to counter aggression will also encourage Turkey to follow a similar strategy when dealing with other disputes. On the regional scene, Turkey may take an even more aggressively negative stance over the sharing of the flow of the headwaters of the Tigris and Euphrates with Syria and Iraq. Since these countries depend on the two major rivers for imgation and potable water, they could be denied even more of their rightful share than at pre-Turkey has impounded the

flow from its mountains behind the huge Ataturk Dam in order to develop the southeastern region of the country in such a way as to benefit its alienated Kurdish minority. Turkey seeks to silence the Kurds with prosperity while it continues to deny their ethnic identity and political rights.

U.S. assistance in locating and nabbing Ocalan will encourage Turkey to continue play along with Washington's game plan in Iraq. On the one hand, Turkey has made it abundantly clear that U.S. warplanes may go on overflying northern Iraq from the strategic Incirlik base. This means that Washington's low level war of attrition against Iraq's defences will continue. depriving that country of the

and maintain the territorial integrity of Iraq. On the other hand, Ankara might now grant facilities or bases to U.S.-financed Iraqi

exile opposition groups seeking to overthrow President Saddam Hussein. While this would be unwelcome in the Arab World, where these groups are generally seen as having no chance of toppling present government, Washington anti-Saddam activists could argue that the credibility of their Iraqi allies had been enhanced by Turkish

support for their cause. Turkey can also be expected to deepen its strategic defence cooperation with Israel which, according to Kurdish sources, played a key role in locating Ocalan. Such cooperation between (or amongst) non-Arab powers in the Mashreq has never been in the Arab interest because the U.S. has either used its alignment with these non-Arab powers as

a counterweight against a unified Arab front or as a means to divide and weaken the Arabs. By capitulating to Turkish pressure and refusing Ocalan sanctuary, Europe demonstrated an amazing degree of cowardice. In consequence, Ankara may exhibit an even more

aggressive stance towards the

European Union than that adopted in December 1997. when Turkey was not included in the first batch of countries slated for admission. Turkey's initial reaction was to refuse contact with the EU and to order Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash to boycott talks on a settlement of the Cyprus This created a rift between

Greece, who took the position that Turkey could not veto Cyprus admission, and other countries which do not want to import the Cyprus dispute into the EU. This rift could be exacerbat-

ed if Turkey were to exert increased pressure to keep Cyprus out on Britain and Germany, two countries which already hesitate to admit Cyprus until there is a political settlement on the island. Greece, which uses accession to the EU as a means to compel Turkey to settle with Cyprus. could become isolated. This would be a negative

development for the EU as a whole and for the international community, which finds itself increasingly dominated by the surviving superpower, the U.S., which is seeking to impose its narrow national agenda on the rest of the world.

## quoted Qattan as saying on prosecutors of journalists."

A number of repentance laws, each valid for several

Those offering no such inforterms.

said recalling parliament would be hard with campaigning under way. The conservative Motherland Party said such a law might wait until after April

Ecevit announced a drive to revitalise the economy of the mainly Kurdish southeast which has been hit hard by the brutal 14-year-old conflict that has killed at least 29,000. "Now is the time to speed up

investment," he told reporters. in another development, Ecevit has implicitly confirmed outside help in the covert operation to capture Ocalan, a newspaper said Friday.

Ecevit told the national daily

information was obtained. or any other country's assistance in locating Ocalan, Ecevit said: "I can't reveal that. I can't give a country name. But you can make your own guess."

outright denial.

stayed for 12 days. Ecevit said the team flew to five CIS members nabandon pact

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